

'No medical reason for his release'

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A medical committee appointed by Health Minister Eliezer Shostak determined only a month ago that there was no medical reason for releasing Yehoshua Bension from prison.

This was claimed yesterday by Black Panther leaders Manny Cohen and Kochavi Shmush in Jerusalem. They said the committee's report had been leaked to them by a ministry official who told them that he was endangering his job but felt that it was his moral obligation to do so.

According to a spokesman of President Katsir, who formally pardoned Bension, it was because of the financier's ill health.

However, according to the alleged report by the committee of three doctors, Bension's condition did not worsen in prison. The three, who visited the prisoner, said that he could get any treatment he needed in the prison itself or in Tel Hashomer Hospital, which is used by the prison, according to the leaked report.

The doctors did, however, recommend that Bension be moved to a less crowded room than the one in which he was being held. They also recommended that his blood pressure be checked daily by the prison nurse, that he be seen every week by the prison doctor and that he get a checkup every six weeks by a specialist, the report said.

The committee was appointed at the end of July, after one of Bension's appeals against his sentence, the Black Panther leaders said. The committee was identified as Drs. Yehoshua Kishon, Shlomo Shibolet and Zvi Ben-Zvi.

(Continued on page 14)

Bension barred from leaving country

TEL AVIV (Him) — The local official receiver yesterday obtained from the Tel Aviv District Court an order forbidding pardoned banker Yehoshua Bension to leave the country for one year.

The judge accepted the official receiver's argument that Bension — who was declared bankrupt following his failure to pay the IL25m. fine imposed by the courts — could not be allowed to leave the country until he paid his debt.

Justice Sussman 'surprised,' disturbed

By DAVID LANDAU
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Justice Yoel Sussman, president of the Supreme Court and the judge who rejected Yehoshua Bension's appeal to be released on health grounds, indicated his initial disquiet last night at President Eliezer Katsir's decision to remand Menachem Begin's



Yehoshua Bension seen at home after his release from prison yesterday. (Zvi Keren)

Begin: No politics in Bension pardon

Jerusalem Post Staff

Prime Minister Menachem Begin yesterday rejected allegations that politics had anything to do with his decision to recommend that President Ephraim Katsir pardon Yehoshua Bension.

"Bension, who had served two years of a 12-year sentence for embezzling \$47m. from the Israel-British Bank that he managed, was released from prison yesterday on a presidential pardon. The freeing of the 53-year-old Bension because of his ill health has been criticized in many circles.

In a personal statement released by the Prime Minister's Bureau, Begin responded to the accusation that politics were involved by saying: "Only someone who is himself capable of acting from impure motives could suspect it was such motives that had led me to act as I did in this case."

Bension had refused to contribute to Herut when approached by Begin both in the 1983 and 1973 Knesset election campaigns, the statement pointed out.

The statement quoted Prof. Ezra Sohar, a private physician, as describing Bension as "a very ill man whose life expectancy is short even under the best conditions. There can be no doubt that prison conditions are far from enabling medical treatment and ancillary treatment of the sort required to a seriously ill person in the condition of Mr. Bension. There can be no reasonable doubt that his being at

home under better conditions will improve his chances of living and his life expectancy."

The statement added that the above medical opinion had been endorsed by Bension's own physician, Prof. Moshe Rachmielewicz.

"In my talk with the President," Begin's statement continued, "I submitted all the facts. I would have acted the same way with any prisoner in the same physical condition as Mr. Bension."

In view of the denunciation of the Prime Minister's action by Labour Party leaders, the last paragraph of Begin's statement is noteworthy.

"One day before I appeared before the President, I received a letter that read as follows: 'I would like to stress that I do not know Mr. Bension at all, but I have been convinced that his serious physical condition calls for the granting of a pardon.' The writer of the letter was Labour MK Yossi Sarid."

One of the strongest attacks came from MK Shlomo Hilel, who was Minister of Police when Bension was convicted and sentenced.

The significance of Begin's action was "the politicization of the institution of pardoning," Hilel said. He did not believe that poor health was a sufficient reason for pardoning a prisoner.

"When the Tel Aviv District Court sentenced Bension to a long prison term, the judges knew of his physical

(Continued on page 2, col. 7)

Exclusive Jerusalem Post interview with Jimmy Carter 'Peace depends on flexibility'

By THOMAS B. FELDMAN
(Special to The Jerusalem Post)

WASHINGTON — President Jimmy Carter objects to charges from some quarters that his administration has been courting the Palestine Liberation Organization. "We've never courted them and are not now courting them," he stressed. "There is no way to come to someone without talking to them, and we've had no communication with them."

In his first interview devoted exclusively to the Middle East since taking office, the President responded to Arab insistence that the PLO be a full participant in any future Geneva meeting. "That won't be possible unless the organization renounced its vow to destroy Israel," he asserted.

As to whether the U.S. favors PLO participation at Geneva, Carter indicated that the issue was not the PLO's presence at the peace talks, but rather a change from the organization's present dedication to Israel's destruction to one of recognizing Israel as a permanent reality in the Middle East. This is critical, he believes, in preventing PLO subversion of any agreement that might be reached.

He characterized the PLO's recent rejection of UN Resolution 242, which recognizes the existence of Israel, as "an obstacle in the way of our efforts to convene a peace conference."

He said he hoped the PLO would re-examine its position on this matter. Otherwise, he added, the prospect of further progress in the peace

drive will have been damaged. He added, however, that he has had private assurances from the leaders of all the states involved that they will be more flexible — even on the points which reflect a wide gap in their thinking. "Their past public statements won't be permanently binding on them," he said.

Sitting in his Oval Office during a relaxed private interview last week, the President appeared more philosophical, if somewhat less optimistic, than he had been two months ago about getting the parties to Geneva in 1977.

Addressing world Jewry on the eve of its High Holy Day period, the President noted: "Last year, at the beginning of Rosh Hashana, I said the cornerstone of American foreign policy is Israel's security, its permanence and its right to exist in peace. This remains an unshakable commitment on my part, on the part of the Congress and on the part of the American people."

Asked whether — under any circumstances — he'd withhold arms from Israel, he replied: "I wouldn't necessarily give Israel everything it requests, but our policy is obviously predicated on an adequate defense capability for Israel."

The President took issue with complaints from some of Israel's supporters that the Jewish state is being asked to give up real estate for promises.

"I wouldn't want Israel to give up anything that would endanger its security," he said. "The so-called promises would have to be tangible proof of a commitment by the Arabs to accept

Israel on terms of real peace." Yet the President allowed that the Arabs had given him no assurances of such a commitment. "They are probably withholding comment on their definition of peace until they sit down with Israel and negotiate," he said.

The President, still hopeful about Geneva this year but sobered by some of the procedural difficulties, disclosed that he, his advisers, and the State Department have invested enormous time, effort and study to bring it about.

But he went on to say: "If I see no further interest among the parties in a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and if I become convinced they're not acting in good faith, I will be reluctant to continue my efforts to bring them together."

Referring to his peace drive as a "good investment," he nevertheless cautioned: "If our efforts fail this year, it'll be difficult for us to continue to devote that much time and energy to the Middle East. Dozens of other foreign policy matters require my urgent attention."

He stressed that peace depends on more flexibility than the two sides have shown thus far. And he predicted that if either the Arabs or Israelis "cling to their very adamant positions of the past, and refuse to negotiate freely and aggressively, then there is no hope for permanent peace."

Carter described Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's recent Mideast trip as "very" (Continued on page 2, col. 1)

No indication of withdrawal by terrorists

Post Military Correspondent

There is no indication that the terrorists have withdrawn or are withdrawing from southern Lebanon, a military source told The Jerusalem Post last night.

For the past two days there have been press reports from Lebanon that the terrorists are pulling back from the south.

"We are not in possession of any information which would verify that," a top-level source said.

The same source noted that the third stage of the Shureya agreement — which calls for a retreat of leftists, a disarming of Christians in the south, and the entry of regular Lebanese forces to keep the peace — is not being implemented.

"There is no sign that this stage of the agreement is being carried out," the official said.

Meanwhile, it was reported yesterday that activity at the Good Fence continues as usual, and that villagers in the south are still effectively cut off from the rest of Lebanon.

UPI, quoting the Phalangist radio reported from Beirut last night that Lebanese police defused explosives, apparently set to explode in one of the most crowded sections of Beirut, hours after launching an appeal for public help in stemming a recent rash of bomb attacks.

Meanwhile, the Phalangists also reported late Wednesday that a bomb explosion in a parked automobile had killed two persons in the hill town of Al Moukattar, the birthplace of slain wartime socialist leader Kamal Jumblatt and near the site of a fierce Druse-Moslem-Christianist clash in late August.

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Undisclosed settlements in West Bank?

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Political Reporter

Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon was yesterday reported by "Ma'ariv" as saying that several settlements were established in Judea and Samaria during the past month without any publicity.

According to "Ma'ariv" reporter Dov Goldstein, Sharon would not reveal where the settlements are located nor how many were established.

Although the previous government decided to establish settlements in western Samaria, it had not implemented the decision. "So it is only natural for the present government to implement the decisions already taken," Goldstein quoted Sharon as saying in an exclusive interview. Sharon refused to comment on the report. An aide of his blamed the reporter: "It was a slip of the pen," he claimed.

"Certainly not," Goldstein told The Jerusalem Post. "If there was a slip, it was a slip of the tongue (by the minister)."

An unnamed senior official in the Ministry of Agriculture told Israel (Continued on page 2, col. 2)

Iraq expels Syrian diplomat

BEIRUT (UPI) — Iraq has given the first secretary in the Syrian embassy in Baghdad 48 hours to leave the country, alleging the diplomat took part in "criminal sabotage activities," the Iraqi news agency reported yesterday.

The expulsion order followed an Iraqi television interview earlier this week in which an alleged Syrian "sabotage agent" said the diplomat, Nassouh Jwajlat, had recruited him to booby-trap a car that exploded in central Baghdad on July 25.

Syria denied the allegations late Wednesday, terming them "lies" that undermined Arab unity.

Both Syria and Iraq had identified Jwajlat as Damascus' consul in Baghdad in earlier reports. But the Iraqi news agency now said he was the Syrian embassy's first secretary.

The agency said Jwajlat had been a declared persona non grata after Iraqi authorities had "confirmed" his participation in "criminal

sabotage activities that occurred in Iraq...in violation of international rules and (the rules of) diplomatic behaviour."

The expulsion order was the latest salvo in a war of words and communications between the rival Ba'ath Socialist regimes in Baghdad and Damascus.

Damascus radio launched sharp propaganda attacks on Iraq last Monday following a bomb blast — in the same Baghdad square as the one which Iraq has charged Jwajlat set up — and a high-level Iraqi government reshuffle.

Damascus radio spoke of what it said was popular unrest inside Iraq and claimed the expansion of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council signalled a "widened split" in the Baghdad leadership.

Iraq said the council change was a move to widen the Council's power base which had been decided at a Ba'ath Party congress last January.

Tense bargaining continues for kidnapped German's life

BONN — The kidnappers of top West German businessman Hanns-Martin Schleyer yesterday gave a number of concessions from the authorities in tense bargaining for the release of jailed urban guerrillas.

A terse television announcement by the Federal Criminal Police (BKA) did not say exactly what demands had been accepted.

But it invited the kidnappers to name a go-between of their choice to save time and prevent misunderstandings in negotiations for Schleyer's release.

The BKA announcement, which referred to only two numbered paragraphs in the two messages so far received from the kidnappers, did not appear to answer the main demand — the release of 11 urban guerrillas in various German jails.

BKA officials said they had received a photograph of Schleyer in the hands of his abductors and a statement by the businessman saying he was unhurt. The black and white picture showed him wearing a vest with a notice hanging from his neck saying "Prisoner of the RAF."

The RAF, which stands for Red Army Faction, is the name used by the Baader-Meinhof group, the country's most dangerous urban guerrilla movement whose three leaders were sentenced to life imprisonment last April.

Informed sources said the three were among the prisoners whose release was demanded.

The BKA has been sent two messages by the kidnappers — one Wednesday night and one on Tuesday, 24 hours after Schleyer was snatched following a machinegun attack on his car in Cologne in which his driver and three policemen died.

The kidnappers have demanded that the 11 prisoners be flown out of the country together with a total of 1,000,000 marks (IL4.7m.). They also say the prisoners must be accompanied by a UN representative, as yet unidentified, and 35-year-old German pacifist Martin Niemöller. Dr. Niemöller has said he is prepared to go.

In London, Prime Minister James Callaghan called off a visit to West Germany planned for today because of the kidnapping crisis. (Reuters)

Correspondent Brian Arthur adds: Overnight, the brutal kidnapping has plunged the Federal Republic into a mood of fear and desperation seen as critical for the nation's future.

The press is calling for the toughest kind of crackdown both on the terrorists and their sympathizers. Other, more conservative, voices warn, "the ruling left-liberal coalition under Chancellor Helmut Schmidt risks its own downfall, or gradual political chaos and the growth of a police state."

The crisis atmosphere has been compounded by charges that federal and state police failed to coordinate in the minutes and hours after the kidnapping. (See story — Page 4)

Soviet Jews arrested at Moscow fair

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Three Soviet aliyah activists were arrested soon after they left the Israeli pavilion at the Moscow international book fair on Tuesday night for purportedly stealing books, an Israeli organization supporting Soviet aliyah reported yesterday.

A member of the "Let My People Go" organization in Israel told The Jerusalem Post that she was informed by a telephone call from Moscow that three men — identified as Abramowitz, Askin and Taitron — had been arrested on Tuesday night and found in possession of books given to them as presents by Israeli publishers appearing at the fair.

Abramowitz was told that he would be charged and tried for stealing the books — some of which belonged to him and were not given by the Israeli representative. The three activists were forced to sign a document understood by members of the Israeli organization to be a "confiscation report."

Books at the Moscow fair are not for sale or for distribution. The books given to the three activists were not exhibits but the personal property of the Israeli publishers, the Israeli organization said.

(See story, page 4)

Coke to finance \$50m. plantation outside Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has signed an agreement with Coca Cola to start a \$50m. citrus plantation and help the American firm get out from under the Arab boycott of Israel.

Details of the pact were revealed here yesterday by a Coca Cola official in Egypt who negotiated the agreement. Company officials in Atlanta said on Wednesday the agreement would not affect the soft drink company's dealings with Israel.

The Egypt-Coke agreement was similar to one with the Ford Motor Company concluded in principle earlier this year.

Sam Ahoub, a Coca Cola vice-president, said his company would form a joint venture called Ramses Agricultural Co. to operate a 15,000-acre citrus plantation between Cairo and Ismailia.

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State Department privately 'upset' by Sharon remarks

By WOLF KLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The State Department yesterday reacted with restraint to the reported pronouncement by Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon that several new settlements had secretly been established in the West Bank during recent weeks. But privately officials were upset.

The State Department has asked U.S. ambassador in Israel Samuel Lewis to seek confirmation of and additional information on Sharon's remarks, which were clearly regarded as inflammatory here, considering America's well-known opposition to settlements.

The issue arose at the daily news briefing at the State Department, but the spokesman responded diplomatically. "We're looking into it," he said tersely, noting that he had no additional comment to make on the issue at this time.

Meanwhile, the House International Relations Subcommittee on the Middle East has scheduled three days of hearings solely devoted to the settlement question later this month. Witnesses representing a wide variety of views have been invited to testify on the political, legal and strategic aspects of the problem.

Although the previous government decided to establish settlements in western Samaria, it had not implemented the decision. "So it is only natural for the present government to implement the decisions already taken," Goldstein quoted Sharon as saying in an exclusive interview. Sharon refused to comment on the report. An aide of his blamed the reporter: "It was a slip of the pen," he claimed.

"Certainly not," Goldstein told The Jerusalem Post. "If there was a slip, it was a slip of the tongue (by the minister)."

An unnamed senior official in the Ministry of Agriculture told Israel (Continued on page 2, col. 2)

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Golan		16-28	27
Nahariya	24	20-31	30
Safed	14	10-20	25
Haifa Port	26	22-29	28
Tiberias	24	22-33	32
Nazareth	20	18-28	28
Afula	27	19-31	31
Shomron	35	22-29	32
Tel Aviv	61	21-28	30
B-G Airport	53	21-30	30
Jericho	35	21-34	34
Gaza	48	21-28	31
Beersheba	48	22-31	32
Eilat	29	28-37	37
Tiran Straits	33	28-33	33

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Rabbi Ovadia Yosef called yesterday on Prime Minister Menachem Begin. The Premier also met with William Nicholson, vice-president of Union Carbide and vice-chairman of the U.S.-Israel Business Council.

Judith and Sidney Shipton of London sincerely wish their relatives, colleagues and friends a New Year full of contentment, peace and happiness.

Birth

Spitzer, to Ada, nee Landau, and Amital, of Jerusalem, a son in London, September 6, 1977.

ARRIVALS

Leon Feldberg, editor of "South African Jewry" and former editor of the "South African Jewish Times," and Mrs. Feldberg, for an extended visit.

Poetess dies in mystery fall

TEL AVIV (Him). — Police are investigating the death yesterday of poetess Tirza Atar — daughter of poet Nathan Alterman — whose lifeless body was found yesterday morning on the pavement outside 26 Rehov Ha'Azar here. It is believed she fell from her sixth-floor flat there.

Mrs. Atar's husband told police that the thirty-year-old poetess, who generally went to bed early in order to write early in the mornings, had left him a note the previous evening saying she was tired and asking to prepare their two children for school. At 7 a.m. yesterday morning she came out of her bedroom and watched the children — a fourth-grader and a first-grader — leave for school and then returned to her room, the husband said.

He meanwhile prepared some coffee and called for her to drink some. When she didn't answer, he said, he went into her room, found the window open, and looking through it saw her body on the ground outside. The investigation has turned up no notes or other indications of suicide. Her family vigorously denied that she had killed herself, and said she had no motive for suicide.

Labour demands debate on child allowances

Jerusalem Post Staff
The Labour-Mapam Alignment has decided to demand a special Knesset session during the current summer recess to discuss the Treasury's plan to cut child allowances, and to allow illicit earnings undeclared in the past to the income tax authorities to be "laundered" at a flat rate of tax.

The special session will apparently be held soon after Yom Kippur. At yesterday's meeting of the Alignment Knesset faction executive in Tel Aviv, where this decision was taken, Micha Harish (Labour) charged that the Treasury under the Likud was planning to award "prizes" to tax dodgers "who would have had to pay a far higher rate of tax, had they declared their earnings in the normal way."

Histadrut Secretary General Yehuda Meisel, now attending the TUC conference in Blackpool, was also angered by reports that Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich intends to abolish family allowances for the first two children.

Meisel told The Jerusalem Post he was "disturbed" that such a move was taken while he was out of the country. He claimed that Ehrlich had written to him only a couple of weeks earlier, telling him that he did not intend to change the family allowances. "It is not the right way

to do things," Meisel said. "I have been telling people in Israel that there could be honest relations between the Histadrut and a Likud government. This is not honest relations."

More opposition to the proposed cuts came from Dr. Israel Katz of the Democratic Movement for Change. Many of those who have been relieved of economic stress in recent years would be thrown back into it if the proposed cuts were implemented, Katz said.

Katz, a former director of the National Insurance Institute, noted that between the tax system (following the recent reform) and the child allowances, there is a delicately balanced system of guaranteed income. Cutting off even part of the allowances would disrupt this system, he said.

Many of the families, who need the children's allowances most are young couples, who have only recently been demobilized from the army and who are trying to set themselves up, he added.

The proposal was also criticised by Prof. Eliezer Jaffe, speaking for Zehavi, the organization of large families. Jaffe noted that the same Treasury officials who tried to push through the proposal now had tried to do so twice during the Rabin administration.

Amnesty for tax-dodgers not around the corner

By SHELOMO MAOZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter
Any tabling of a bill granting an amnesty to tax evaders is still off, with Treasury opinion still sharply divided on the issue, authoritative sources in the Treasury say.

State Revenue Commissioner Moshe Neudorfer seems to believe that leniency and another chance would get at least some of the sinners to repent and enable the Treasury to collect some more money. But Income Tax Commissioner Eliezer Shiloni is dead set against any amnesty, and wants the screws tightened on tax evaders.

The Jerusalem Post learned yesterday that the director of the Income Tax Administration's investigation department, Zevulun Haendler, has joined the anti-amnesty forces. Haendler has submitted a memorandum stating that an amnesty would encourage tax evasion in the future, as evaders would come to expect that they would sooner or later get a pardon. Moreover, the Treasury cannot expect any substantial income from an amnesty, he says.

The reason behind Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich's decision in principle to declare an amnesty is that the tax authorities lack sufficient manpower to deal with the hundreds of thousands of open income-tax files. Dozens of veteran tax officials have left the service recently, and the remaining staff are unable to cope with the backlog. Even files dating from before the 1974 income-tax reform remain unexamined.

However, even if the Finance Minister does ultimately grant an amnesty, there will be serious differences about the rate at which

to tax the concealed income declared.

Shiloni wants a rate of 45 per cent, and some anti-amnesty forces apply only to undeclared income up to 1974. Furthermore, he wants the amnesty and the special tax rate to apply only to the additional income declared, not to the whole income of the taxpayer (or rather, non-payer).

Neudorfer, who originally opposed the amnesty idea, is inclined to hold out a more substantial carrot — no more than a 30-per-cent slice of the previously undeclared income. He furthermore wants this to apply as well to undeclared income since the tax reform, and to have payment on previously undeclared income grant immunity from any further tax claims or prosecution for the entire period covered by a new tax declaration.

The income-tax authorities are concerned now that premature discussion of a possible amnesty may become an incentive for taxpayers to under-report their income now, in order to benefit from a lower tax rate later, when the amnesty is declared.

Because of this, they want to wait until the 1978 returns are in before making any final decision. This is so they can first examine the level of reporting as a basis for their decision.

Makleff, Tur to Moscow conference

Mordechai Makleff, director general of the Ministry of Defense, and Ezer Weizman, head of Koor Chemicals, left yesterday to represent Israel at an international conference in Moscow of the chemical industry committee of the Economic Commission for Europe.



Navy commander Aluf Michael Barkai mans a sailing surfboard in the army sailing championship in Haifa Bay yesterday. (JPA)

El Al's rival, Cal, may get passenger licence

By SHELOMO MAOZ
AND LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporters

The Ministerial Economics Committee is leaning toward granting a full operation licence to Cal, the air-freight company established last year by former Air Force commander Mordechai Hod over strong opposition by El Al. Such a licence would enable Cal to carry passengers in addition to freight.

The committee will discuss the matter on Sunday, but no immediate decision is expected — due to the present crisis in El Al. In any case, an operating licence for Cal will probably be made conditional on Cal's applying first to El Al to charter planes and facilities before the company turns to foreign airlines.

The government will in any event apparently wait for a clarification of the situation in El Al — and, particularly, a final decision on the possible replacement of El Al general manager Mordechai Ben-Ari by Cal's Mordechai Hod.

Ben-Ari yesterday branded as "ridiculous and not worthy of comment" a report in the press alleging that Defence Minister Ezer Weizman had asked him to resign. The airline's managerial service and clerical staff committees also rallied to his support expressing their admiration for him as manager.

Meanwhile Hod denied that he had been made any offer to take over as El Al head. He told reporters at a Ben-Gurion Airport press conference that, should an El Al offer materialize, he would however "weigh it in the light of conditions within that firm."

The El Al spokesman yesterday charged that the press is responsible for "the panic" over labour relations

at El Al. All the differences with the flight engineers, stewards and technical managers are being discussed while everyone is working, he said. Nobody is striking.

As for the maintenance workers' announcement that they will not work on the holiday, this was no real problem. The shifts that work on Rosh Hashana are skeleton crews of four or five men, the spokesman said, and with hundreds of maintenance workers in the company "that's a drop in the bucket."

Meanwhile, Yehoshua Woschina, who holds the El Al portfolio in the Histadrut, said "all we can do about the El Al situation is wait." On Tuesday and Wednesday Woschina made several fruitless efforts to intervene — one being a letter to El Al maintenance workers asking them not to carry out their threat of not working on Rosh Hashana. He received no answers.

Shoshana Lesser added: "The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday came out against any long-term closure of El Al, but in favour of an overhaul of the company's structure and employee representation. It does, however, favour a temporary closure."

Winding up a study tour of El Al installations, the MKs met yesterday with works' committees and management. Committee chairman Gad Ya'acobi who chaired the meeting, had to restrain his fellow MKs from hitting the El Al workers to an all-out argument over labour relations. Employees were ill prepared to answer streams of questions from the MKs ("we don't have paper") and resented some of the thinly-veiled attempts of committee members to rebuke them for hampering the country's air traffic.

Pilots and engineers were peeved that "no one appreciated the fact that we hadn't gone on strike for 12 years."

The Finance Committee will work on the suggestion of Menachem Savidor (Liberals) that El Al copy the wage structure of a European airline with healthy work relations. Another proposal is to improve employees' attitudes to El Al by offering shares or bonds linked to company profits.

Bension will seek retrial

By SHOSHANA LESSER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Yehoshua Bension was in good spirits last night, after his first day of freedom from Ramat Prison. He immediately plans to get well and clear his name through a retrial, he told The Jerusalem Post.

According to Bension, former Kupat Holim head Asher Yadin and Israel Corporation chief Michael Tur, whom he met in prison were in no way peeved at his release. "They rejoiced with me," he said.

Bension heard the news of his release from a fellow inmate who rushed in and kissed him after hearing about the Presidential clemency on radio. His reaction was to "feel very happy...and grateful to the government of Israel."

Asked if his release had anything to do with reported contributions to Herut's debt-ridden Tel Hai fund or donations to the Land of Israel Movement, Bension said he had not given "a penny" to Tel Hai but had always supported the Land of Israel Movement.

Bension, who had been sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment and fined 11,250, said he had not yet paid his fine because his money is "fied up with my property." During his stay in prison his wife and children had been supported by "generous sisters and friends who had given non-commercial loans."

Bension said the government was suing the Swiss bank to which he was accused of having pledged \$38.5m, for that amount of money, "using arguments which were used in my defence case." They delayed action against the Swiss bank in order to secure my conviction," he added.

Bension said he had suffered three strokes in prison and still limps.

Sussman

(Continued from page one)

pressed a negative opinion, Barak replied, "no comment." But he added that the power to make a clemency recommendation to the President was in the exclusive jurisdiction of the Justice Minister, so that he as Attorney-General had not been formally involved.

(The Attorney-General's representative sits on the parole board, whose decision was in effect overturned by Begin and Kadish.)

A source close to Kadish observed yesterday that there was no precedent for a President refusing a clemency recommendation from a Justice Minister. This seemed to indicate that Kadish sees Begin, rather than himself, as the prime bearer of responsibility for the Bension decision.

Nevertheless, the source added, Kadish had been aware in advance of the past political sympathy between Bension and the nationalist camp (Land of Israel Movement, Gush Emunim) and he had anticipated some public criticism of the decision. He believed, however, that the storm would soon blow over, the source said.

The basis of much of the criticism in legal and other circles at Bension's release is Justice Minister's reasoning last year in rejecting Bension's appeal against the parole board's decision to keep him in jail despite his chronic illness. If he were to accept the illness as grounds for release, the Supreme Court president said, "it would emerge that all persons have an automatic permit to commit crimes and that in practice only healthy persons would bear responsibility for their criminal acts. An ill criminal would indeed be convicted — but would be immediately released from prison. This logic clearly leads to a ridiculous conclusion."

Carter maintains peace depends on more flexibility

(Continued from page one)
successful," despite press reports to the contrary, and indicated that it may well enhance movement towards a Geneva conference. "I still believe Geneva is a possibility," he said.

Yet the President cautioned against expectations of an instant solution to the conflict. "Disputes that have existed for 2,000 years can't be resolved in one peace conference," he said.

Carter reiterated his long-standing position that the U.S. has no specific Middle East peace plan, declaring that his aim is to act merely as a "catalyst" in bringing the sides together.

However, he emphasized that the settlement of a number of basic issues is mandatory for the conclusion of peace: Arab acceptance of Israel that goes "beyond non-belligerency," open borders, trade, cultural exchange, diplomatic relations, and some resolution of the territorial dispute, including a solution to the Palestinian question.

As for the latter, he said he had no fixed thoughts on what the ultimate settlement should be, where the refugees should live, whether they should have a state of their own or be associated in some way with Jordan or Israel. "The Palestinian question has to be resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the Arabs and Israel," he stated.

"If they agree on any solution tomorrow, I'd have no objection to it."

Carter defined a "homeland" simply as a "place for people to live." He conceded that in previous statements he referred to a "separate Palestine entity that ought to be associated with Jordan," but added that he had no commitment to that proposition. "If the Israelis and the Arabs agree on a different arrangement," he said, "that would suit me fine."

Asked why he abandoned former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's step-by-step approach — which some Middle East experts insist was on the right track — Carter observed: "First of all, we didn't abandon it. But if you ask Dr. Kissinger, he'd agree the next step should be a comprehensive peace settlement. When that overall settlement is reached, it would then be implemented in small, slow steps."

Replying to criticism of his departure from the Kissinger policy of quiet diplomacy, Carter explained that he'd rather evolve a position in open forum than formulate a policy in an area as critical as the Middle East in secret, and then present it to the public as an accomplished fact. "I expect to continue to make public disclosure of our position on this issue," he said.

Did Menachem Begin change the President's

mind on any strategic issue during his visit here in July?

"He didn't try to change my mind," Carter responded. "He showed me a map of the West Bank... It was not the first time I saw a map of the West Bank."

While Carter didn't say whether the Arab heads of state had changed his mind on any key problems during their talks, he did note a new willingness on their part to say they accept the concept of Israel's right to be a nation. "But," he added, "they still have a long way to go."

Reflecting on his administration's Middle East stance in the aftermath of meetings with all the leaders of the region, as well as Vance's recent trip there, Carter said that, while he is not trying to impose an American-made settlement, he is still determined to play more than a passive role.

Moreover, he stated that the U.S. effort as long as it lasts would have to be a tenacious one. But, he concluded, unless that effort produces a pronounced movement towards peace this year, it may have to be curtailed.

(Trude R. Feldman for the last 15 years has covered the White House for a number of Jewish publications — as well as for United Features Syndicate.)

West Bank settlements

(Continued from page one)
Television said that while Sharon really meant was that "activities to establish" several new settlements began last month in Judea and Samaria.

The official named Mel-Ami Bet in western Samaria, Migdal Oz in Gush Etzion, Yattir in the southern Hebron area, a Hashomer Hatzair settlement in the Dvir-Lahav area, and Horon Dated.

But Ra'anana Weiss, who heads the Land Settlement Department of the World Zionist Organization, said yesterday that Mel-Ami Bet and Migdal Oz were established 10 months ago.

And Uri Pinkerfeld, secretary of Mapam's Kibbutz Arzi told me that the Hashomer Hatzair group which is to settle in the Dvir-Lahav area is serving in Nahal. They will move to the Daharia police station next month. Weiss said that nothing had been done there.

Pinkerfeld added that their permanent settlement would be established south of the June 4, 1967 boundaries, on the Hebron-Beersheba road.

According to "Ma'ariv," Sharon alluded to the secret settlement in order to refute Gush Emunim claims that nothing had been done. Sharon is said to have argued that the Gush Emunim people know of these developments so that there is no reason for them to implement their plan to settle without obtaining specific government approval.

But one of the participants in the deliberations of the ministerial committee on settlement rejected this explanation. In an obvious reference to Sharon, he said: "Some people are chatterboxes. Others they try to find

ideological explanations as to why they said what they said." The source nevertheless noted that "there is no secret settlement...it's nonsense."

Alignment leader Shimon Peres seized the opportunity to blast the government.

"The gap in credibility is beginning to be felt in all the government's positions beginning with today's headline in 'Ma'ariv,'" he told his party's central committee in Tel Aviv.

"A respected minister tells the public there is secret settlement in Israel...settlement no one heard of and no one saw... What a fantastic invention... How many times can you make such headlines and expect the people to treat the government seriously?" Hersh Goodman adds: "Sources in the Defence Ministry last night told The Post that they were 'amazed' by Sharon's alleged statement."

The source — a person who is involved in all negotiations concerning new settlements in the administered territories — said that no one at the Ministry had any knowledge of any new settlements.

"Sharon's statement had caused the government a severe embarrassment," the source said. "And I cannot figure out how new settlements could have been established without our having known about it in advance. He called the entire story 'suspect.'"

(Sharon interview — Page 14)
30 COMMANDERS of Civil Defence forces in various towns and neighbourhoods yesterday completed a first refresher course held by the police.

In deep sorrow, we announce the sudden passing of my beloved husband, my brother, our uncle
HENRY B. WOLFF
formerly of Koenigsberg, Germany
who passed away on August 7, 1977.
The funeral took place near his residence, Osova, N.Y. (U.S.A.)
Eva Wolff, Osova, (U.S.A.)
Miriam Hamburger and Family,
Kfar Shmaryahu

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY
Sackler School of Medicine
share the grief of Prof. Lawrence Lewin
on the death of his
FATHER

A Memorial Service for
MARGERY BENTWICH
will be held in the cemetery of Zichron Yaakov
on the anniversary of her death on Thursday,
September 15, at 4 p.m. Friends will be welcomed.

We sadly announce the sudden passing
in London on September 2, 1977, of
MERVYN BERNARD LAZAR
Wife — Ruth
Children — Janet, Peter, Stephen and Alan

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IL1,500,000
This week, draw at 12 noon
on Monday.
Last day for handling 1
Lotto entries —
SUNDAY, SEPT. 11
1 NEW SPIN — 1 NEW

BEGIN
(Continued from page 1)
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By ARTHUR KEM
Jerusalem Post
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Terrorists who snatched Schleyer received training from PLO factions

By ARTHUR KEMELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — German terrorist groups, one of whom is reportedly responsible for kidnapping industrialist Hannu-Martin Schleyer, receive money, weapons and training facilities from certain PLO factions based in South Yemen, a West German parliamentarian said here yesterday.

Dr. Albrecht Dregger, chairman of the Christian Democratic Union in Hessen and vice-chairman of the national CDU, refused to comment in detail on the kidnapping crisis in Germany, noting that it was impossible to do so from Tel Aviv. But he condemned German terrorists for seeking to destroy German democracy and replace it with a "so-

called proletarian dictatorship. In reality they mean to set up a dictatorship to fulfil their own personal ambitions."

Questioned about his views of the PLO, Dregger declared the terrorist organization does not represent the Palestinian people since it was never elected by the local population in the West Bank or Gaza. Dregger noted that it would be advantageous if the local population in the West Bank would hold proper elections and elect representatives of their own.

Before visiting Israel, Dregger also toured Egypt, Lebanon and Syria. He said that his main impression from these visits was that negotiations have become possible between Israel and the neighbouring states. The PLO, he noted, is not a

state. Important progress has been made, in that moderate Arab leaders are willing to recognize the existence of Israel as a state entitled to secure boundaries. "But of course, the devil is in the details of any settlement," he added.

Hostile statements by Arab leaders suggesting that peace was impossible should be regarded as present as tactical manoeuvres. Dregger refused to comment about Israeli settlements in the West Bank or the use of Israeli artillery against targets in southern Lebanon, saying: "A visitor cannot make statements about policy or enter into details."

In the course of his nine-day visit Dregger met government ministers, including Yosef Burg, Ezer Weizman, and Moshe Dayan, and various Knesset Members.

Soviet booklovers thumb through — and palm — volumes at the fair

By KEVIN KLOSE
The Washington Post

MOSCOW. — Russian book lovers took over the first international book fair here, gazing, thumbing, reading — and sometimes making off with — volumes of foreign publishers they had never seen before and may never see again.

Western book publishers reported that large-format books of art, especially modern painters and sculptors stood high on the list of books most popular among the fairgoers, followed by sports and children's books. The throngs were so great that many publishers were forced to cordon off their booths, letting in a few dozen persons at a time to avoid a crush — and keep better eyes on their stocks.

Some of the sales representatives seemed dazed by the eagerness of Russians, who stalked from booth to booth, filling their pockets with catalogues and brochures and sharing with friends or strangers ideas on the best places to browse.

Several publishers said they had lost anywhere from three to more than 40 books from their display racks in the first two days of the fair, which is to end next Wednesday. But perhaps the loss-leader was a small husband-and-wife publishing house called Ardis publishers, of Ann Arbor, Michigan which specializes in Slavic studies. Carl and Ellen Proffler said about 30 of their 70 titles disappeared the morning of the first day and another 10 on Wednesday.

The catalogue of one Russian publisher was seized because it referred to "The Ivanliad," a book by Volnovich. Sources said the writers, well known to Soviet security police, were moving freely from exhibit to exhibit.

Most Americans ascribed the missing books to a genuine love of reading by the Russians, who are eager for variety and cherish unexpurgated foreign editions, even though some of the titles on display here are simply Western editions of Western writers already available in the Soviet Union.



A visitor to Moscow's first International Book Fair takes notes at the Israeli pavilion. (AP radio photo)

But one knowledgeable Russian offered another reason — a flourishing black market in Western books. "A book by Vladimir Nabokov that costs \$8 in America can bring 80 rubles (about \$47) here," he said. A well informed Westerner said American books "are bought for large sums of money even by people who can only read Russian. It is the idea of having something special from the West and they can always resell it for a high price."

The Americans seemed divided on the question of how much pilfering was going on relative to other fairs. But none of them seemed concerned about it since most were pondering ways to distribute their books anyway. At least they don't have to pay freight charges home.

After festive signing in Washington Carter faces fight on Panama treaty

WASHINGTON. — President Carter on Wednesday signed treaties relinquishing the Panama Canal in the year 2000. But opponents called it "treason" and rallied yesterday to the battle cry "we built it, we bought it, we own it."

In a glittering ceremony Wednesday night preceding a state dinner for the presidents, prime ministers and diplomats of Western Hemisphere nations, Carter and Panama's military ruler, General Omar Torrijos signed their names to the two blue-bound treaties turning the 77-mile-long canal over to Panama.

As television cameras carried the scene live, by satellite, throughout Latin America, Carter declared that the treaties — one on a phased hand-over and the other making the canal neutral and open to all nations — "mark the commitment of the United States to the belief that fairness, not force, should lie at the heart of our dealings with the nations of the world."

Carter's bold diplomatic gamble produced the treaties. But signing them does not put them into effect. It takes Senate ratification and House implementing legislation to do that, and the task will not be easy.

The treaties, which many Latin Americans feel will drag out the hand-over, also must be approved by Panamanian voters.

During the signing 200 people — including middle-aged veterans and young human-rights activists — demonstrated against the treaty on the steps of the Capitol. They missed however when six uniformed members of the American Nazi Party turned up.

Even Democrats conceded that the path to ratification will be thorny. Declaring that the Senate would not take up the treaty until early next year, Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd said "my present inclination would be for the Foreign Relations Committee to hold hearings this year and lay down a solid, clear record of facts on which a national debate can ensue."

Representative Larry McDonald, (Democrat-Georgia), called the treaties "not a Democratic giveaway or a Republican giveaway — it's a bipartisan treason."

Declared Senator Orrin Hatch (Republican-Utah): "We'll filibuster this, and we'll be doing it for every American."

During the signing ceremony

Torrijos, in a concession to the rocky road Carter faces, said the future of the treaties depends on "the statesmanship" of the U.S.

Carter, trying to quash conservative opposition, said at the signing that the agreement serves "the best interests of both parties" and guarantees "the neutrality of the Panama Canal" once Panama takes full control of the waterway and the 16-km-wide Canal Zone at the end of the century.

He added that the 1903 Panama Canal pact had been "drafted in a world so different from ours (and) has become an obstacle to better relations with Latin America."

Before the ceremony, the Supreme Court had turned down a last-gasp effort by four Midwest attorneys-general to block the signing.

Mobilized in support of the treaty were Lady Bird Johnson, whose husband Lyndon had placed his administration on record for turning the canal over to Panama, and former President Gerald Ford.

They received warm applause when Carter introduced them at the signing ceremony. Also present were Henry Kissinger, Secretary of State under Ford and Richard Nixon, and William Rogers, who held the post in Nixon's first term.

The treaties cannot become effective until two-thirds of the senators present and voting approve. NBC said its poll showed 36 for, 22 against, and 43 undecided. ABC said its count was 33 for, 27 against, 40 undecided.

Under the treaty, the U.S. and Panama would administer the canal jointly until December 31, 1999. Until then the U.S. has primary responsibility for defence of the canal. The U.S. may decide on its own how and when to reduce its 9,000-man military force in the Canal Zone and schedule the closing of 14 bases there during the life of the treaty.

As to compensation, the U.S. will pay Panama \$100m. a year for the canal's operation.

About 70 per cent of the 1,250 sq. km. Canal Zone reverts to Panama as soon as the treaty is ratified. Within three years of ratification, the 3,500 American civilian employees in the Canal Zone would be subject to Panamanian law instead of American law. Panama after three years would take responsibility for public and social services, including schools, the Canal Zone police force and postal service. (UPI, AP)



U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Panama's head of state Torrijos embrace at the Pan American Union in Washington Wednesday night after they signed the new Panama Canal treaty. (AP radio)

Six bombings in Portugal over land reform scheme

LISBON (UPI). — Time bombs exploded inside all major land reform centres yesterday, destroying records vital to the government's farm policies and causing injuries. Police said the blasts injured five persons, including two children and a policeman. One of the children, a nine-year-old girl, was reported in serious condition.

Bombs exploded before dawn within an hour of each other in Lisbon and four centres of the Alentejo farming region affected by the controversial land reform programme passed by the socialist government in July.

A sixth explosion wrecked offices in Evora, 140 kms. east of Lisbon at midday, slightly injuring a policeman. Police said they had discovered the bomb, which they estimated at two kilos of explosives, but were not in time to defuse it. In Santarem, three people were hurt by glass splinters as the explosion rocked neighbouring houses. A child of seven was injured as a wall collapsed, police said.

The bombs in Lisbon, a very powerful, the police wrecked the inside of buildings and damaging people and cars. In Beja the explosion started a fire which was brought under control.

Police said no arrests had been made and there were no clues as to who was responsible for the explosions. Land reform in Portugal became an explosive issue as a minority socialist government in July to curb communists in farming collectives in the region.

A law that breaks up man collectives and returns land to private owners is expected to be passed in parliament. Vigorous opposition from the Communist Party, supported by leftist groups, is expected. (AP)

Rhodesians claim Mugabe, Nkomo men falling out

SALISBURY (Reuters). — Rhodesia radio yesterday reported clashes between rival groups of black nationalist guerrillas in the southern area of the country. It quoted a security forces spokesman as saying members of Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe Peoples Revolutionary Army (Zimpro) and Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (Zanla) had been ordered to "liquidate one another."

(The two men lead the "Patriotic Front" of hardline black guerrillas fighting to end white rule in Rhodesia.)

The radio said five guerrillas had been killed in recent incidents. "We have conclusive evidence two factions have been instructed to liquidate one another," the spokesman was quoted as saying. "Nkomo's forces are being liquidated while Mugabe's are from Mozambique. The radio the security spokesman said captured guerrillas had been ordered to infiltrate into Rhodesia to move west."

Meanwhile, Zimpro for fighting to end white rule in Rhodesia. Botswana had been instructed to move east and eliminate Z report stated.

Rampaging Moluccans burn buildings

ASSEN, The Netherlands (AP). — A policeman was shot and wounded in the stomach early yesterday when police clashed with young South Moluccans who rampaged through this northern Dutch town setting fire to buildings, police said.

The officer was rushed to a hospital for surgery. Police estimated his condition as stable.

The confrontation was near the court where eight Moluccan extremists are on trial for hijacking a train and seizing a schoolhouse in northern Holland last May.

Using Molotov cocktails, the Moluccans set fire to a number of buildings, including an elementary school which was destroyed.

'200 Ugandans bashed to death with hammers'

NAIROBI. — Ugandan soldiers bashed nearly 200 prisoners to death with sledgehammers in two days last month, according to seven Kenyans who said they watched the slaughter before escaping from a Kampala prison.

President Idi Amin's soldiers battered their victims into unrecognisable pulp, striking each body 15 or 20 times, the escaped prisoners told reporters here.

The Kenyans, four of them women, said they were in Uganda on business. Their spokesman, Robert Kamau, said they were arrested for spying, held five months in Kampala's Kolo Hill prison, and escaped on August 30 after being warned by a soldier's wife that they were to be killed the next day. They fled through bush country to Kenya. An eighth escapee, who separated from the party, has not been seen since.

On arrival in Nairobi the Kenyans told the British High Commission that they had held a brief, whispered conversation in Kolo Hill with a heavily-bearded European prisoner who said he was British and appeared to be in good health.

The only British-born white man known to be held prisoner in Uganda is businessman Robert Soanlon, 44, who had taken Ugandan citizenship. He was arrested on spying charges last June. The High Commission said that the Kenyans' information was not sufficient to identify the white prisoner as Soanlon. Kamau said that on August 27 a group of about 100 people were brought to the jail at 5 p.m.

"Through cracks and keyholes in our cell we watched in horror as each prisoner was tied up and battered to death with a hammer. The murder was committed by a large group of soldiers, who were not in uniform," he said.

"Each victim was hit 15 to 20 times. The bodies were unrecognisable...they were pulp. It took a long time. The killings went on until 10 p.m. and everything was quiet again. We don't know what happened to the bodies."

He said that on August 28 a group of about 80 people were brought to the jail and were also beaten to death by hammer-wielding soldiers.

"This time there were two women among those murdered," he said. "The Kenyans said they escaped after cutting two wire grills from a window, mainly using a belt buckle. Kamau said: 'We were lucky. The soldiers must have been drunk or asleep. We all got out without being heard.'"

Meanwhile, it was reported that Amin is "in a coma" in a Kampala hospital after undergoing an operation for an undisclosed ailment. Robert Astley, British-born candidate and top aide to Amin, said in a telephone interview he did not have any details.

Asked the reason for Amin's operation, he replied: "We don't exactly know. But he's in a coma. We believe he'll pull out of it." Earlier yesterday, Uganda Radio announced that Amin underwent an operation in Kampala's Mulago Hospital by a Soviet surgeon. (Reuters, AP)



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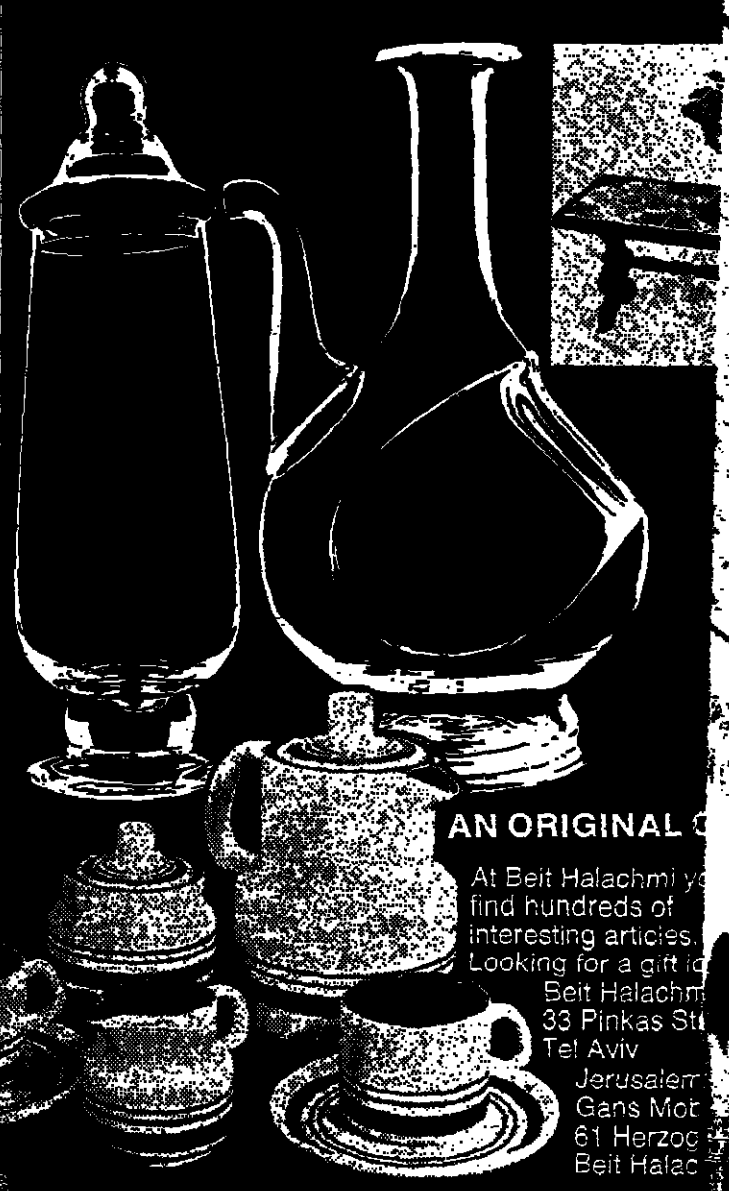
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THE ISRAEL
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA

Notice to Subscribers
in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem

Only THREE days left
for subscription renewals

10 a.m. cable-car brings Alex Haley — the rather nondescript, portland, grey-haired author of "Roots" — to the top of Masada. He is a foreign ministry escort, and his good friend and attorney, the late Alan Sillitoe, is a Los Angeles man who despite his long-standing connection with the man obsessed with roots has never been to Israel to look for his own.

An unsuspecting American tourist his son attach themselves to the up, mistaking Jack Campbell, said's most knowledgeable tourer who has been drafted for service in honor of the occasion. It is only an embarrasing young woman from New York spots Haley from the crowd and comes across the ruins. "You're great, you're great," she says, "I saw your programme on TV that the tourist realizes with a gasp that he has been reliving the last of the Zealots. Then he, too, goes to shake Haley's hand and compliment him on the epic, the documentary and "all you've done," Haley, wearing a *kova tembel*, only accepts the attention as a more Americans line up to be photographed with him. All over the world, he says, people recognize the process of touring — people searching for their roots. (Since Haley's book appeared, The Jerusalem Post has received dozens of letters from Americans asking what their last names are and where they come from).

Haley is in Israel at the urging of good friend and colleague, the African Jewish novelist Herbert Gold. Ironically, Haley had wanted one for years but never could afford it. Now that he drives a Mercedes and lives in the plush Bel Air section of Los Angeles,

LEAVING DOWN the steps of Jerusalem's Yehoshua Market, where the Mishkenot Shalom, where Alan Sillitoe had been living up his six-week stay in the country, we reflected that we were lucky to have an interview sandwiched into crowded departure schedule. He was obviously little time for talk, and as soon as courtesies had been exchanged and a drink had been accepted, we launched a discussion of his most famous work, *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*.

"This is a picaresque novel," he says. "You pile it on as far as you can and the character pulls you along. He is pushing me along..." He was referring to the incident in which Arthur Sexton, on the night his mistress, Brenda, has left him, picks up her sister.

He never do well Arthur knows his limits; he doesn't beat up Jack, Jack's husband, after he's found out that Jack has had him handed by two soldiers.

He likes Jack," Sillitoe explains. "They're work-day friends. Arthur is more complicated than one thinks. People, even simple ones, are complicated, but the difficulty is to see them as complicated as they are to themselves. It's a subtle union, between complexity and ability to express that complexity."

Alan Sillitoe is not a working-class man. "I stopped being a member at class at 15, when I joined the Force. I became a *déraciné* and in Spain and France for eight years by choice. I had to get out, to a clearer, more accurate perspective."

On the other hand, his best-known characters are brawlers and petty thieves.

He often said that a writer comes with the milieu he lived in un-

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AN ORIGINAL

bscribers
Jerusalem

Exclusive interviews with visiting authors Alex Haley and Alan Sillitoe

Roots in the Bible Belt

By JOAN BOERSTEN
Jerusalem Post Reporter



Alex Haley

The Israel Foreign Ministry is picking up the tab. But many strange things have happened since "Roots" was published. Gambia, the small underdeveloped country, to which Haley traced his ancestors, has now become a centre of West African tourism.

CONTRARY to a plausible sounding rumour, Haley is not searching for his religious roots in Israel. They are firmly planted in the New Hope Methodist Church of his hometown, Henning, Tennessee, in the heart of the Bible Belt — that part of the southern United States where every town has a Mt. Zion or a Bethlehem or a Jericho church, where revivalists with names like Brother Abraham and Sister Sarah set up their tents to heal the afflicted with God's power, and where fiery preachers frequently put fear into the souls of their parishioners with sermons based on graphic stories from the Old Testament.

Haley grew up with two different but equally influential oral traditions, the tales of Africa told by his grandmother, and the Bible stories of Sunday School. "I knew about the River Jordan and the Sea of Galilee long before I had heard of the Mississippi." To this day Haley is a church-going, God-fearing man.

The Church has always been and remains today the strongest single influence on Alex Haley, Haley points out. It is more powerful than any other movement; the vocal Black Muslims, who number 250,000 at most, are nothing beside the conservative Southern Baptist Church

with its five million members. And the Church has always been the Black's Zion — the one institution which no one could take from him, says Haley. He is struck by the many similarities between Jewish and Black history and both people's ability to survive in the face of terrible odds.

But the Jews, unlike the American Blacks, have always known their roots. Israel, in fact, impresses Haley as the place in the world most involved with the search for, and the preservation and commemoration of, its history and tradition. History

and tradition, he said, are what his book has given American Blacks. The result has been a sense of pride, something they never had before. Interestingly enough the book did not stimulate a back-to-Africa movement, but established for Blacks their place in American history.

HALEY frequently speaks at churches and synagogues as well as before secular organizations and groups about his "root seeking" and the importance of knowing one's origins. America, he believes, is basically a rootless country, partly because it is young — "We have no Masada or even something as old as the Byzantine church on Masada which everyone writes off as 'only fourth century'." — and partly because it is a nation of immigrants. The first American-born generation inevitably tries to avoid identification with the heritage of its parents. "No one listens to his grandmother anymore," says Haley.

"Strangely enough," he continues, "lots of American Jews are also rootless — it would do them well to visit Israel. I can understand the source of their rootlessness, though. There is a lot of anti-Semitism in America, and many Jews consciously or unconsciously play down their Jewishness."

On the question of Black anti-Semitism, Haley is firm: Most Blacks are not anti-Semitic. The world has blown the feelings of a vocal minority out of proportion. "Anti-Semitism is widely based," Haley warns. "The danger is not from the Black community. In fact, most Blacks have so many problems

of their own that they are not pro or anti anything, just trying to live and let live."

Haley personally is very pleased with his Pulitzer Prize, his National Book Award, the fact that his book is prescribed reading in over 300 colleges and universities and in almost every American high school. Even the National Education Act has "sponsored it, endorsed it, and everything else-did it."

"I feel as if I've been paid my dues. I worked every single day for eight years before I sold anything. Now I feel secure in my ability as a writer, and no longer feel a 'lesser' being. The public doesn't care whether a writer is black, white, purple, as long as he's good."

BUT unfortunately, says Haley, he is one of only a handful of Blacks who are now visible in many professions and positions never open to them before. And the handful are only a drop in the ocean, not a barometer of the progress of the millions of others. Despite state and federal legislation, colour prejudice remains strong in America — "just look at the reaction to busing."

"If Son of Sam had been a Black, there would have been a huge backlash. As a Jew, or an Italian, he's seen as a sick individual; as a Black he would have been considered the personification of a people."

"If all of us people on earth don't start learning to live together," warns Haley, "then one day we're all going to go up together. Something that distresses me is that we have the intelligence and mechanical means... to make the world a living utopia. But when you look at what we've done, and at all our negative virtues, one wonders why we don't just fall down on our knees and beg forgiveness from God."

Going your own way

By BRUCE BRENDER
Special to The Jerusalem Post



Alan Sillitoe

til he was 18 or 20. I've used it as well: I sometimes take a story I've heard in a middle-class framework and put it into a working-class setting — to make it more vivid and immediate.

"People of different classes mix more easily than one might suppose; that is, their emotions are not always conditioned by class. If they were, it would be very unfortunate."

He himself was born 49 years ago in Nottingham, which he sums up succinctly: "Boots Chemicals, Players Cigarettes and Raleigh Bicycles. That's what Nottingham's got. Not black with smoke, still, it's an industrial city."

He began writing in hospital after contracting tuberculosis in Malaya, and then struggled for years to complete his first novel. He has now written 20 books, but still hates to think of "having a career as a writer."

"Everything seems haphazard," he says. "I write when it's possible to write; I have no set schedule like a doctor or a lawyer. I'm lucky enough to make a sufficient income to support three people (He and his Jewish wife, Ruth, herself a poet, have one son.) Whether you work with a schedule or not doesn't make any difference. If you don't, then guilt gets to you and you work just as hard — as long as you're not basically lazy."

ALAN SILLITOE says that he feels at ease among Israelis. "They're individualists, which is an advantage. I'm talking about ordinary people to whom I've given lifts while I was driving around the country."

"I think you have a fine literature. You have terrific poets," he says with authority (he wrote an introduction to *The Burning Bush*, an anthology of translated Israeli poetry), "and good novelists." He rattles off names — Benjamin Tammuz, Aharon Meged, A.B. Yehoshua, Daliah Rabikovich.

"This is may be a unique country, with three million people and all these writers. But Hebrew has just come back into its own domain. You've got to build up the limits of a language with experimentation. When a language is changing, it slows down development. But when it has been consolidated, perhaps the achievements are greater. This latest wave of Israeli novelists is young yet; Yehoshua is not yet 40. They've got perhaps another 40 years ahead of them."

HE FIELDS the question about what is happening in England now quite calmly, as if he had expected it. "Seven days when England was the centre of Europe, people were not very well off. Now England is insignificant, but the standard of living is quite high. Yet there is much more industrial trouble now."

"All people want is a higher standard of living in a world in which this is no longer possible. The readily accessible Third World markets are more sophisticated about buying, and the prices of all commodities are up for good."

"The problem is that the situation has altered quite a lot, but people's responses are the same, which is bad. They are reacting in a traditional way. The values and conditions of an individual's life change

only slowly, within a changed framework.

"A vast melting-pot is taking place, but I'm not sure in which direction the pot is tipping. It's probably towards more self-indulgent chaos. Once the troubles start, the people pushing them along won't stop until everything is levelled — which has never happened in any country. The shape of the hills is altered a little bit, but the hills remain."

LOOKING BACK to the grim days before the Six Day War, when there were few in Israel's corner, Sillitoe comments:

"I think it was an appropriate time to speak out. One hears some discordant voices and one wants to be heard. One spoke, of course, in general terms, within the area of one's competence."

"I've always been interested in the State of Israel, in things biblical, if you can equate them — and I think you can."

After his stay here, is he tempted to write a book about Israel?

"I've kept a journal. Every writer writes something about Jerusalem," he replies, mentioning Saul Bellow. "I don't want to duplicate what others have done... One has to put one's thought into acceptable literary form. I may write some magazine pieces perhaps."

As he accompanies us to the door, we can't help but compare him to Smith, his lonely Long Distance Runner.

As Smith nears the finishing-line, way out front in a race he will deliberately lose in order to show up the smug Borstal governor, he concludes his musings thus:

"You should think about nobody and go your own way, not on a course marked out for you by people holding mugs of water and bottles of iodine in case you fall out and cut yourself..."

Crossroads on Mt. Carmel

CHRISTIAN COMMENT
Oikoumenikos

ferences and spiritual retreats are planned with prayerful care and thought. Last week the centre served as host for an all-Arab group from Beit Jalla and Jerusalem. The week before there was a Hebrew-speaking group from the Tel Aviv area. This summer visitors from 16 countries stayed at Stella Carmel.

Although Stella Carmel is sponsored by the Israel Trust of the Anglican Church, the guests reflect the diversity of Christianity in the Holy Land: Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Lutherans, Baptists, Anglicans (Episcopalians) and others have all found a warm welcome.

The warden of Stella Carmel, David Price, formerly was chief engineer at a company in England

and never dreamed he would become an Anglican pastor. He affirms the important role that his wife Barbara has played in encouraging him to respond to God's call to prepare for the Christian ministry. David and Barbara's introduction to Israel came via a kibbutz, Ein Dor, a secular one near Mount Tabor, founded in 1948.

A year ago the Prices were washing dishes in the kibbutz kitchen, painting lamp-posts and air raid shelters, or filling a barn with cattle feed. Several hours each day

were spent studying modern Hebrew. They moved on to Stella Carmel but have not been forgotten by Ein Dor friends who occasionally drop in for a visit.

STELLA CARMEL'S reasonably-priced, delicious meals are prepared under the supervision of Mary Kavar, an Arab Christian from the Greek Orthodox tradition. She has been there since the hospice opened in 1957. Another staff member is Neveadan John Datta, whose cheerful disposition and talents have contributed significantly to the centre since 1968.

Stella Carmel's personnel value their relationship with Is'ia's population of about 5,000 Druse and 1,000 Christians. When 25 German visitors came for a recent overnight stay in Is'ia, their Druse hosts brought them over to introduce them to Stella Carmel — even though it was 10 p.m. That's what may happen when you're part of a family.

Local residents also benefit from Stella Carmel. Two weeks ago Druse mothers of large families from Daliat el Carmel came for a

Histadrut-sponsored daytime programme for five days, which aside from recreational activities, included instruction in child care.

Rev. Price says that the staff share several common goals. They want to continue making the facilities available to local people at reasonable cost. They are pleased when people of differing backgrounds become aware of one another with new appreciation. "I care deeply about reconciliation," says Price, "and for me that is two-dimensional: between God and persons, and person-to-person. When a person comes into a right relationship with God, it must have an impact on how he relates to others, regardless of whether they agree with him or not."

"In a land which has known so much strife, often between Christians unfortunately, we pray that we may be a healing community here," adds Price.

Price often serves as a catalyst for such encounters. At times he also serves as a Bible study or worship leader. Some groups bring their own leaders. No guest, however, is required to attend the daily devotional period in the chapel.

This observer would say the aims of Stella Carmel's staff are being fulfilled.

Passion for Jerusalem

BIBLICAL BYWAYS / Louis Rabinowitz

THE LOVE of the Jewish people and of the prophets for Jerusalem has been an all consuming, passionate one, known as *ahava* — and the word "passionate" has been deliberately chosen.

Among all the metaphors and similes used for that bond of love, the human love of man for woman occupies a prominent place. The Jewish People is the husband or the bridegroom, Jerusalem the wife or the bride. Thus, in Isaiah 1, 21, Jerusalem, the once faithful wife, has become a prostitute; in the *hafsura* for this Shabbat, Jerusalem, deserted by its people, is depicted as an abandoned wife, or as an unmarried concubine. (I have devoted one of these columns to the fact that this is the meaning of *shomema* in the Bible.) With the restoration of Jerusalem to the Jewish People and the Jewish People to Jerusalem, it is said "As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride so will the Lord rejoice over thee."

The simile does not confine itself to these general comparisons. The English language has no single word to describe the physical consummation of one's passion, the union

between husband and wife, or bride and bridegroom — the traditional "four-letter word" belongs to the politely unmentionable. The Latin word *coitus*? The circumlocution "sexual intercourse"?

Hebrew, on the other hand, is direct. The word *be'ei* conveys that act, and the prophet does not hesitate to describe the union of the Jewish People with the beloved city as a sexual one. "As a young man in the prime of his youthful vigour does with a virgin, so shall thy children be with you."

How to paraphrase it? "The passionate explosion which is the climax of the act of love," the orgasm that sweeps everything before it? Can one find a more vivid expression of the unchanging, boundless love of the Jew for his beloved city, "the joy of the whole earth"?

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TELEVIEW
Alex Berlyne's Teleview appears on page 11.

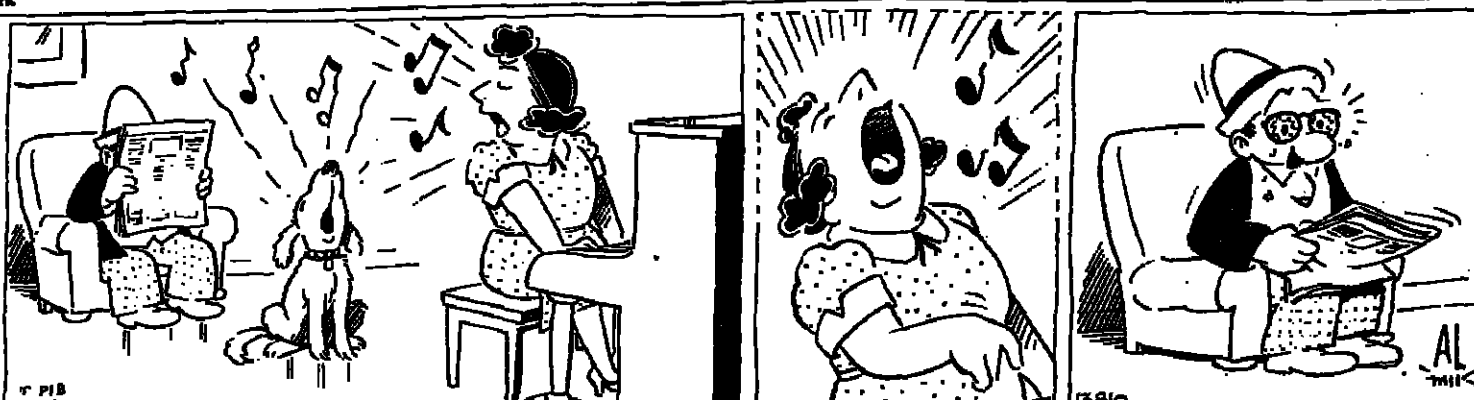
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THE NEW VOLKSPORT FROM VOLKSWAGEN

PAGE SIX

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4. Follow

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6. Parts of books

7. Greek island

8. The occasion

9. Shade tree

10. Culbertson

11. French painter

12. "in the tonight"

13. Falstaff's title

14. Numbing blow

15. Removed

16. Unit

17. Greek peak

18. Lillian's seafood platter

19. Slip away

20. Thick

21. German dollars

22. Padlocks

23. Muralist

24. Rivera

25. Guevara

26. Thick Charles

27. "Beware of March"

28. Rams' mates

29. Wagnerian role

30. "the ocean"

31. "Konig (legendary golem)"

32. Cazelle

33. Sarah

34. Jewett

35. Nimbus

36. "a deal!"

37. Sonny's sibling

38. The end

39. "The Way We

40. Pro

החפץ הכפול ידועת אחרונות

All classified advertisements for Friday submitted to Hahavah Hakafal by the Wednesday evening preceding publication appear in this section

Buyers! Refrigerators!!! Kiron, 27781, 27782, also Shabat. Tadiran 400 refrigerators, excellent condition, immediate delivery. 27781, 27782, also Shabat. Tadiran 100, 115, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400, 410, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 480, 490, 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, 600, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 670, 680, 690, 700, 710, 720, 730, 740, 750, 760, 770, 780, 790, 800, 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890, 900, 910, 920, 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, 1000, 1010, 1020, 1030, 1040, 1050, 1060, 1070, 1080, 1090, 1100, 1110, 1120, 1130, 1140, 1150, 1160, 1170, 1180, 1190, 1200, 1210, 1220, 1230, 1240, 1250, 1260, 1270, 1280, 1290, 1300, 1310, 1320, 1330, 1340, 1350, 1360, 1370, 1380, 1390, 1400, 1410, 1420, 1430, 1440, 1450, 1460, 1470, 1480, 1490, 1500, 1510, 1520, 1530, 1540, 1550, 1560, 1570, 1580, 1590, 1600, 1610, 1620, 1630, 1640, 1650, 1660, 1670, 1680, 1690, 1700, 1710, 1720, 1730, 1740, 1750, 1760, 1770, 1780, 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060, 2070, 2080, 2090, 2100, 2110, 2120, 2130, 2140, 2150, 2160, 2170, 2180, 2190, 2200, 2210, 2220, 2230, 2240, 2250, 2260, 2270, 2280, 2290, 2300, 2310, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2350, 2360, 2370, 2380, 2390, 2400, 2410, 2420, 2430, 2440, 2450, 2460, 2470, 2480, 2490, 2500, 2510, 2520, 2530, 2540, 2550, 2560, 2570, 2580, 2590, 2600, 2610, 2620, 2630, 2640, 2650, 2660, 2670, 2680, 2690, 2700, 2710, 2720, 2730, 2740, 2750, 2760, 2770, 2780, 2790, 2800, 2810, 2820, 2830, 2840, 2850, 2860, 2870, 2880, 2890, 2900, 2910, 2920, 2930, 2940, 2950, 2960, 2970, 2980, 2990, 3000, 3010, 3020, 3030, 3040, 3050, 3060, 3070, 3080, 3090, 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, 3180, 3190, 3200, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3250, 3260, 3270, 3280, 3290, 3300, 3310, 3320, 3330, 3340, 3350, 3360, 3370, 3380, 3390, 3400, 3410, 3420, 3430, 3440, 3450, 3460, 3470, 3480, 3490, 3500, 3510, 3520, 3530, 3540, 3550, 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VIEWPOINT

IT HAS already been mentioned that the Warsaw Ghetto Revolt did not break out on Nissan 27 but 31 days earlier, and that that date was a "compromise" choice for Heroes and Martyrs Remembrance Day. We have also seen that Tisha B'av, the ninth day of the Jewish month of Av, is also a compromise date, for none of the events mentioned in the liturgy — at least 10, most notably the destruction of the two Temples — is known to have actually occurred on that date.

In this connection, we read in the Talmud (Ta'anit 28a): "Rabbi Yohanan said: 'If I had lived at that time, I would have set the date as the 10th of Av, for that is the day on which most of the Temple burned.' But the Sages ruled that the day on which the calamity began is the day that counts." And Av 9 is presumably the day on which the Temple was put to the torch.

Av 9 having been made the date, the Sages "found" that the calamity really began many centuries before the Temple was fired, in the Sinai Wilderness. The eve of Av 9, the Talmud tells us in connection with Rabbi Yohanan's above remark and the Sages' decision, was the night the Jews wept over the report of the Ten Scouts and demanded to be taken back to Egypt (Numbers 13:1-14:45). And, the Sages continue, "God said to the Jews: 'You have wept tonight for no good reason? I will give you cause really to bewail this day for many generations!'"

And so, according to the Sages, on Av 9 God decided that the "generation of the wilderness" would not enter the Promised Land, and that became the date on which Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed twice, and on which Hadrian would conquer B'etar, crush the Bar Kochba Revolt, and plough Jerusalem under. Later, it was also made the "anniversary" of the murder of the Ten Martyrs by the Romans; the massacre of the Rhineland Jewish communities by the Crusaders; the burning of the Talmud in Paris in 1242; and the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492.

If, then, we seek the "date on which the calamity began" in our own time, a date less arbitrary than Nissan 27 and Av 9 but a "root calamity" such as occurred in the Sinai Wilderness in Biblical times, we might pick April 1.

A few weeks after becoming Chancellor of Germany on January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler declared a boycott of all Jewish businesses, to start on April 1. From that date, such businesses were required to display prominently signs "with a yellow badge against a black background." Hitler's announcement itself was not yet the "root calamity," however. It would have been no calamity at all — if German Jewry and the rest of European Jewry had taken the hint and left, and if the rest of world Jewry and the "civilized world" in general had acted.

The real beginning of the real calamity for the Jews was the editorial published in the April 1 issue of the German Zionist weekly, "Die Juedische Rundschau," by its editor, Robert Weitsch. "Wear the Yellow Badge With Pride" was the title of that oft-quoted editorial, in which Weitsch wrote:

"Here is a powerful symbol. The measure is intended as an act of stigmatization, of disparagement. We accept it and propose to turn it into a badge of honour."

True, "Jewry bears a guilt because it failed to heed Theodor Herzl's call." But instead of calling on his fellow German Zionists to make amends by heeding Herzl's call now, he recommended that Herzl's *The Jewish State* be distributed among Jews and non-Jews in hundreds of thousands of copies. And "if there still remains any feeling for greatness and nobility, and sense of gallantry and justice, then every National Socialist who looks into this book is bound to shudder at his own blind actions. Every Jew who read it would also begin to understand and would be consoled and uplifted..."

(The United Nations votes that Zionism is racist? Then proudly wear a badge saying "I Am a Zionist!" And give Anwar Sadat, Hafiz el-Assad, Yasser Arafat, Leonid Brezhnev and Idi Amin copies of *The Jewish State* to read, and reason and justice will prevail.)

LATER, too late, Weitsch decided that his article had been "based on a mistake." And on February 21, 1931, in delivering his indictment of Adolf Eichmann, Gideon Hauser told the court: "...even Weitsch could not foresee that the yellow badge would become the distinctive sign that, a few years later, would be forced upon all the Jews in countries ruled by the Nazis, so that they might be more easily identified for the purpose of the blood-bath."

Why "even Weitsch," who plainly was not the supreme visionary of the time? "Even Weitsch could not foresee" what Arthur Ruppin, for example, did foresee. "In Germany," he wrote in his *Diaries* on February 14, 1933: "Hitler has become Chancellor!... A catastrophic collapse of all the hopes of the liberal Jews to become integrated into the German people."

On May 10 Ruppin writes that he made a speech at a meeting of the Vaad Le'umi, the supreme council of organized Jewry in Eretz Yisrael, in which he felt he had to stress "that it was more important to procure work in Palestine and shelter for Jewish children and young people than to pass political resolutions against the German government."

In August, Ruppin spent two weeks in Germany on an official mission for the Zionist Organization negotiating with the foreign office and the economic affairs ministry the terms under which German Jews would be permitted to leave the country for Eretz Yisrael, taking a certain amount of capital with them — the famous "Transfer Agreement."

He also discussed with the German authorities and Jewish leaders the emigration of 250,000 German Jews to Eretz Yisrael, the U.S. and other countries. He reports (in an August 16 entry) that this had the approval also of Weitsch, who "is editing the *Juedische Rundschau* so well that the

The anniversary of the contemporary Jewish calamity, contends MOSHE KOHN, is rooted in the calamity of Exile, which is rooted in the Destruction that oc-

number of subscribers has risen during the past four months from 7,000 to 30,000." I suppose that in the four months following October, 1974, after the UN passed its Zionism-racism resolution and Jews everywhere were sporting "I Am a Zionist!" badges, the circulation of Zionist periodicals also rose nicely. (Weitsch left Germany in 1938, lived in Eretz Yisrael till 1947, then moved to England, where he today writes for "Ha'aretz.")

"Wear the Yellow Badge With Pride! 'I Am a Zionist!'" Some decades before Robert Weitsch, Bernard Lazare (1868-1903), the great French-Jewish literary critic and fighter for social justice, and Anarchist-Zionist, wrote (in *Job's Daughters*): "I have overcome the pride of being a Jew. I know why I am one..."

And what Lazare wrote about the Jews' tendency to "look upon themselves always in relation to the non-Jewish world might have been his reply to Weitsch's pathetic appeal to the Nazis to read *The Jewish State* and "shudder at their own blind actions." It may even apply to the reaction of many Jews, Zionists included, to today's situation. Lazare wrote: "Throughout this whole century (the 19th) the Jews have bestirred themselves to prove to the heads of states the advantage that those politicians and their people would gain in emancipating the Jews. As for the advantage to the Jews of being emancipated — that they have not proved."

HITLER evidently did not come to his senses after reading *The Jewish State*, if he read it. He was not even persuaded by Dr. Max Naumann, and his League of National German Jews, and Dr. Hans Joachim Schoeps, the German Jewish religious philosopher, that Jews could be devoted subjects of even National Socialist Germany and loyal members of the Nazi Party. Dr. Schoeps has at least lived to express his regret (in his autobiography, published in 1958) over his failure to recognize the true nature of Nazism.

"Even Weitsch could not foresee." But we have seen that "even" Ruppin foresaw. And "even" Max Nordau, who died in 1923, had already foreseen that the ground of Europe was burning under the Jews' feet. "Even" Ze'ev Jabotinsky foresaw the same thing in about the same period, when he infuriated liberal Jews and most of his fellow Zionists by negotiating with anti-Semitic East European leaders and speaking to the Jews about asking the League of Nations to take the Palestine Mandate away from Britain and assign it

to a kind of consortium of East European countries that were eager to get rid of their Jews.

What wrath Jabotinsky drew on himself from Jewish liberals and even fellow Zionists when, in the late 1920s, he started harping on the theme of "evacuation," calling for a "radical — though gradual — evacuation" of all the Jews from Europe. While most of the Zionist leadership was seeking only to achieve a Jewish majority in Mandatory Palestine, so as to be able to outvote the Arabs if any of the issues between the two groups ever came to a vote, and was encouraging the ally only of "constructive" elements in European Jewry, Jabotinsky wrote (in "Do'ar Hayom," February 16, 1931): "We need Eretz Yisrael as a receptacle for millions of Jewish settlers."

"On Tisha B'av all Jews will as a collective join in remembering all of the entire nation's fighters and martyrs."

Again and again in the years that followed, Jabotinsky harped on the need to get millions of Jews out of Europe quickly. In September, 1938, for example, at the founding assembly of his New Zionist Organization (after taking his Zionist-Revisionist faction out of the World Zionist Organization), Jabotinsky said:

"We are living, it appears, on the last brink of the abyss, on the eve of the decisive holocaust in the world ghetto." (He spoke in Hebrew, and the word he used was *she'ol*, the word "officially" used today to designate the Hitler Holocaust.)

"If you do not liquidate the Diaspora," he said in 1936, "the Diaspora will liquidate you." On February 11, 1937 Jabotinsky told the Peel Commission in London: "We have got to save millions, many millions. I do not know whether it is a question of rehousing one third of the Jewish race, half of the Jewish race, or a quarter of the Jewish race; I do not know; but it is a question of millions." (Of course, his first estimate, "one third," proved to be

right.) In 1939, most other Jews and people in general still did not want to know what was happening. That year, Recha Freier, the founder of Youth Aliya, cabled Hadassah for \$10,000 to help get 1,000 Jewish children out of Germany. Hadassah replied that they would supply the money when the children were in Palestine. None of those children is known to have survived. At about the same time, the *U.S. St. Louis* was roaming the Atlantic in search of some place to dump its load of 1,000 German Jews whom nobody wanted. That ship had been sent out from Bremen, by Hitler, to test the world's attitude to his intentions concerning the Jews. He was satisfied with the outcome of the test.

By six years later, as noted, Weitsch, Schoeps and all the rest realized that they had been wrong about the nature of Nazism and about the urgency of implementing the Zionist solution.

MANY OPPONENTS of Begin's proposal, as noted, have said, in Cholimsky's above-cited words, that "only the Holocaust survivors are entitled to decide on such a matter." Here it would be interesting to see what one noted Holocaust survivor, no longer alive, said. His words might be said today about some of the Yod Yashem forms of remembering the Holocaust.

They also constitute a telling indictment of the response of many Jews — both direct survivors and others, in Israel and in the Diaspora alike — to the post-war situation: He was Dr. Samuel Gringauz, who had been a social scientist and jurist in pre-war Germany and for a while after the war was President of the Congress of Liberated Jews in the U.S. Zone of occupied Germany. He wrote in the June, 1947 "Commentary":

"More than any other group in the Jewish nation, the *She'erit Hapletta* (the survivors) feels itself charged with a great obligation to the dead such as no unveiling of monuments can discharge: they have seen centuries-old monuments destroyed in an instant."

The dead, Gringauz continues, have imposed on the living a "mission of retribution," which, however, "is not directly conceived in the sense of 'an eye for an eye'; the enormity of the crime makes this unthinkable. The retributive mission of the *She'erit Hapletta* takes instead the form of a defiant affirmation of life and national rebirth. Nothing must permit Hitler a final triumph by the destruction of the Jews through the circumstances of the

post-war world or through inner disintegration. Judaism... must be preserved despite all its enemies, and shall emerge from the great catastrophe healthier and morally purified, shall experience a new renaissance and shall lead a normal life on its own soil..."

For reasons I don't know, Gringauz went to the U.S. instead of coming to Eretz Yisrael. Tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors came to Eretz Yisrael in the years immediately after the war and the establishment of Israel, but many more went to other countries, or remained in Germany where the end of the war had found them in the camps, or returned to Poland (where not even the pogrom in Kielce immediately after the war saved them as a warning), Hungary, Rumania, Greece, Yugoslavia, and even Russia. Some remained in Europe thinking they would regain their lost property and even obtain further material retribution and also political retribution by lordling it over their former persecutors, on whom the world would surely visit due punishment. Others had not forsaken their German, Polish, etc. patriotism and their Messianic dream of a new world in which socialist and liberal principles would prevail, nationalism would be buried, and the Jews would at last enjoy full emancipation in their native landscapes.

Unfortunately, there were far more exceptions than Ludwig Lewisohn realized when he wrote (in *The American Jew*, 1900): "One thing is clear to all except the self-styled laggards of a perished age: we cannot remain in freedom and dignity on the terms of the old pseudo-liberalistic emancipation. For those terms involved, however tacitly, however equivocally, the aim of self-annihilation."

The Holocaust, the re-establishment of Jewish statehood, and Gringauz and Lewisohn notwithstanding, the majority of the Jewish people — of all its sectors — went back to doing what Rabbi Meir Simha Hacohen of Dvinsk (1843-1926) describes in his commentary on the Tora, *Me'aseh Hachama*. In his discussion of Leviticus 26:44 he writes:

"...from the perspective of erroneous doctrines they criticize our ancestral heritage, anticipate new turns after forgetting what has befallen their own people tossed about on seas of troubles, start saying that our ancestors bequeathed a lying heritage to us, forget their origins, consider themselves full-fledged citizens of their places, forsake the teachings of their faith, and declare that Berlin is Jerusalem."

We have seen the "defiant affirmation of life and national rebirth" that Gringauz solemnly vowed in the name of the *She'erit Hapletta* among some of the survivors and some other sectors of the Jewish people. These are mainly the Orthodox Jews constituting the majority population in such places as Bnei Brak, Jerusalem's Me'ah She'arim, Sanhedria Hamurhev and Givat Shaul quarters, and, in a different

way, England's Gateshead and York's Williamsburgh, Boro Monsey, and "Squarstown." But in far too many other Jewry — *She'erit Hapletta* others; Zionist, non-Zionist; Zionist; Orthodox and secular — we have also seen the phar that Gringauz said must not be permitted, "the destruction of it through the circumstance post-war world or through integration." Many of them: children have not merely their backs on the Jewish renaissance but have been forefront of the battle alongside Jewry's external.

SO THE anniversary of the porous Jewish calamity April 1, 1933, when Robert instead of calling on Germans to implement immediately on them to "Wear the Yellow With Pride" and on the *Nar The Jewish State* and be as themselves. And that cal rooted in the calamity which is rooted in the De that occurred on Av 9, rooted in our ancestors' der Moses take them back to t of bondage" in Egypt.

Halschically, then, it se permissible to incorpo: Remembrance Day observ: the Tisha B'av liturgy, and "secular" historical point too, Tisha B'av seems to i suitable date.

There is one more re accepting Mr. Begin's pro: so would erase one tificial distinction: "religious" and "secular" Tisha B'av all Jews will a tive join in remembering entire nation's calamities: tribute to all of the entire fighters and martyrs. Religious Jews will do so at the traditional Tisha vices, now brought up to d itions to the liturgy men Holocaust and the fallen all generations. "Secular" do so primarily at the Ren Day-type of assemblies, be "backdated" by includi of the traditional Tisha vices. And through co between the two groups, Jews will be able t traditional Tisha B'av se religious Jews will be al ticipate in "secular" Ren assemblies, as many m both groups have been d time.

Erasing that one additio tion between Jews would small achievement. For t tion of the Second Te brought about, the Talm tell us (Yoma 9b), by hatred." And the Final R Rabbi Avraham Yitzha Koob tells us, will be br by "unfounded love."

What is more, "even have turned to idolatry, i in harmony with each o shall not touch them." Rabba 11:7). And then, p Blessed Holy One will Tisha B'av into a day of (Yalkut Shimoni, Echa. (This is the second of i The first appeared September 8.)

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Shares perform well

Jerusalem Post Finance Reporter
TEL AVIV. — The "bulls" found little resistance and as a result shares gave their best performance of the week yesterday. The irrationality of the current phase of the market continues to express itself in the relatively poor performance of index-linked bonds and the Nasdaq investment. Many of the professionals in the investment community have made their case for diversification and a smaller concentration of money in the share market. According to all popular indices this advice has gone unheeded. Commercial banks, in relatively quiet trading, showed modest advances. Mortgage banks were in good form. General Mortgage, Safot, Shikun and Agricultural Bank all chalked up higher prices. Insurance issues were also advanced. Aryeh was up nine at 820, shah was allowed to move higher without the traditional "buyers' limit" and gained 50 to 951, mir reached 900. Land development and real estate issues were with the trend, as most issues closed the session with higher prices. Among industrials it was Elco L.2.5 (R) which led the way on a 30-cent move to 590. Argamak pref. (R) was "buyers only" at 525. Alliance returned to winning ways as the shares gained 35 to 1340. Paper Mills were seven better at 421. Your reporter was treated to a sample of the company's home paper products and can attest that the Hadara mill makes a good product. Electra II was also a good feature on a 5.4 per cent advance to 580. Investment companies enjoyed broad support. Speculative Wolfson II.10 was 9.2 per cent better at 295. Hapozim and Discount Investment were unchanged, but Leumi advanced by five to 415. Piron continued to move ahead as it gained 20 to 908. Index-linked bonds showed some improvement but trading at IL14.7m. continues disappointing. The General Index of Share prices rose by 1.52 per cent to 178.15.

Most Active Issues

Mizrah (R)	285.5-4.9	IL721.000
Hapozim	(new) top: 47n.c.	IL593.000
Hapozim (R) 290-1		IL579.000
Shares Traded:		IL4.7m.
Convertible:		IL12.40-1ag.
Waste:		374.000
Offer:		3297.000
Turnover:		

Due to technical difficulties the Tel Aviv Stock Market figures were not received last night.

WALL STREET

Hour before closing, September 8, 1977

3A Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	Mobil	62 1/2
3B Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	Monaco	62 1/2
3C Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	NCR	62 1/2
3D Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	Oce Pet	62 1/2
3E Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	Pan Am	62 1/2
3F Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	Polard	62 1/2
3G Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	RCA corp.	62 1/2
3H Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	Royal Dutch	62 1/2
3I Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	Sears Roeb.	62 1/2
3J Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	Singer	62 1/2
3K Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	Sperry Rand	62 1/2
3L Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	Teledyne	62 1/2
3M Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	Texasco	62 1/2
3N Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	Trans Ins	62 1/2
3O Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	TWA	62 1/2
3P Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	Twent Cent	62 1/2
3Q Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	U.S. Steel	62 1/2
3R Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	West Union	62 1/2
3S Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	Westworth	62 1/2
3T Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	Xerox	62 1/2
3U Ltd.	29 1/2	24 1/2	Zenith	62 1/2

Provided through the courtesy of the Foreign Securities Department of Bank Hapoalim B.M. Tel Aviv. Tel. 251420.

Rally ends in quiet trading

NEW YORK (AP). — The stock market headed lower yesterday after the quiet rally of the past five sessions stalled. The Dow Jones average, up 17.50 points in the last five trading days, had dropped back nearly seven points half an hour before the close. Losers held an 8 to 7 lead over gainers among New York stock exchange-listed issues. Trading was moderate.

Carmel Oriental at Wine Olympiad

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Carmel Oriental Wineries recently used international acclaim for their wine to help them win a gold medal in the Wine & Liquor Olympiad — jubilee 1977, in Yugoslavia. Carmel Oriental, which has been producing wine since 1954, participated in the competition, among 100 countries, with highly developed wine industries, such as France, Italy and the U.S. The ages had praise for the Israeli wine exhibited. In 1976 Gold medals went to Carmel Oriental's 777 Brandy, Red Cabernet Sauvignon, Chateau Rishon Blanc and Sweet Redwood Wine. The firm's President, Shmuel Chana, said, "We are proud to have won this medal. It is a recognition of the quality of our wine and the skill of our winemakers." Carmel Oriental wines are exported to 80 countries. In 1976 exports reached \$3,130,000.

Workers acquire Elron shares

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Capital notes of Elron Electronics are distributed this week to 238 of a company's workers, who had bought the notes when they were at float. The ceremony marking the sale of Elron's capital notes was held at the company's headquarters in Tel Aviv. Uda Gali praised the close ties between the company and its workers and the latter's contribution to the development, production and marketing of Elron products. Elron has adopted advanced western methods of motivating workers by making it possible for them to acquire shares in the company. The Elron Group consists of Elbit, Elint, Scientific Data Systems and Elron Electronics. The group's collective turnover last year was IL200,000,000, half of which was from export. Elron and its affiliated companies employ 2,400 workers, including 500 engineers, technicians and physicists.

5% of Arab oil goes to Europe

JWALT (AP). — The ten members of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) produced an aggregate average of 10,000 barrels of oil per day in 1976. OAPEC of Tuesday in its annual report figure represented 35 per cent of total world production, up from 30 per cent in 1975. The daily average production in individual OAPEC countries was as follows: Saudi Arabia 5,500,000 bbls, Iraq 2,400,000, Kuwait 1,200,000, United Arab Emirates 1,000,000, Libya 1,200,000, and Algeria 1,000,000. The other four OAPEC countries, Qatar, Egypt, Syria and Iran averaged a total of less than a million barrels a day. Almost 45 per cent of last year's oil export went to Western Europe, 30 per cent to the Far East and Japan, 15 per cent to Latin America and 10 per cent to the U.S.

Tiberias Plaza opens for running-in period

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TIBERIAS. — The newest hotel on the shores of the Kinneret, the Tiberias Plaza, opened at the beginning of the month for a running-in period. Managed by CP Hotels of Canada and owned by the Israel Corporation, the Tiberias Plaza is the largest hotel in the area. The 272-room, five-star hotel is located on the shores of the lake, in the heart of the Old City of Tiberias. It is the second CP-run hotel in Israel, the first being the Jerusalem Plaza. The manager of the Tiberias Plaza is H. Ross Justice. Originally scheduled to open in May, the hotel had to postpone the opening because of delays in clearing fittings from customs. This was compounded by the sale of the local interest in the company to the Israel Corporation, which now is the sole owner.

On the occasion of the 4th anniversary of the fascist military coup d'état which overthrew the democratic, elected and lawful rule of President Salvador Allende in Chile a

Protest Meeting

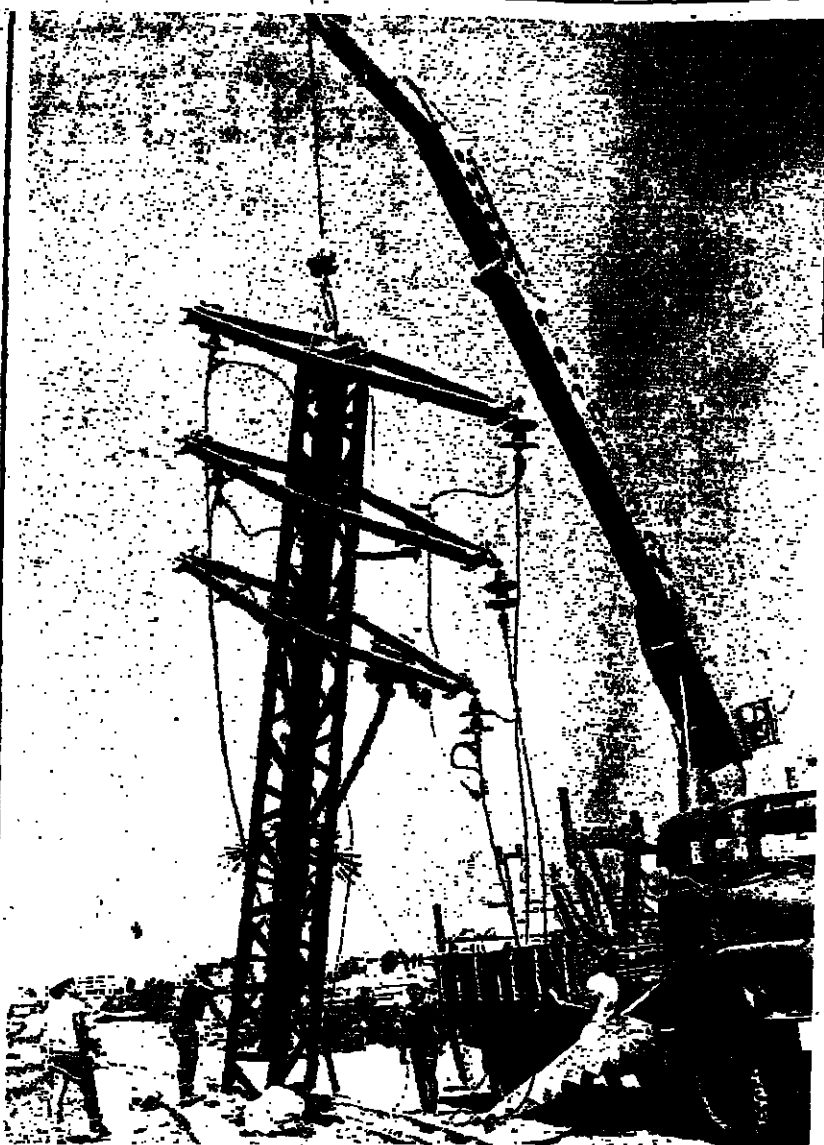
will take place on Sunday, September 11, 1977 at 5 p.m. opposite the Chilean Embassy, 10 Rehov Brenner, Jerusalem.

Demands:
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 For the restoration of democracy in this country!

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A SPECIAL CRANE operated by Electric Corporation crews yesterday removed pylons from Jerusalem's Sderot Canal, where all power lines are now underground. (N. Ben-Ami)

Interest on Gov't bonds may go up to six per cent

The Treasury is considering an increase in the interest rate on government bonds, from four to six per cent (3.8 per cent net after tax) in order to fall in with the strong recommendation of the Bank of Israel to raise the yield on government bonds and thus attract more savings. The contemplated increase will make it possible for the Treasury to raise the linkage rate, which since November 1976 has been 80 per cent. The lowering of the linkage rate has resulted in a sharp drop in government bond sales. The Treasury is in fact not mobilizing any savings from the public, because bonds redemptions outstrip sales now. Only the pension funds continue to buy government debentures because they must do so under the law. In recent months, the banks have also bought more government bonds within the framework of their new saving schemes, which have become popular. The Bank of Israel is concerned about the large-scale redemption of the Compulsory Defence Loans and the Savings Loans which fall due in October. The total amount up for redemption is about IL1.6b. Holders of these bonds who will, instead of cashing them in, agree to hold on to them for another four years, will get 100 per cent linkage for the additional period. The Treasury is preparing a bill offering similar conditions to holders of voluntarily purchased government bonds which fall due for redemption.

Bank Leumi group shows IL9.3b. growth

The intermediate balance sheet of the Bank Leumi Group for the first 9 months of 1977 shows a growth of IL9.3b. An important reason for this growth was the floating of a new issue at the beginning of the year which increased the bank's capital by 57 per cent, or IL2.731m. Together with the long-term non-convertible promissory notes, the bank's capital amounts to IL3.5b. At the end of July the bank also floated IL70m. in regular shares and IL145m. in capital shares. Together with the floating of other issues abroad, the bank's capital hold amounts to IL4.5b. During the first half of the year the bank's approved savings programmes brought in IL800m. Officials point out with satisfaction that there was a significant increase in the number of people saving in monthly plans. The value of the bank's mutual trust funds for the period was IL7.5b. Bank Leumi's number of branches is now 382. The bank ranks 38rd among the 500 biggest banks in the world.

Scope to expand South-African trade

JOHANNESBURG. — Two-way Israel-South African trade figures have now reached \$80m., Israel ambassador Hishak Uma said in a TV interview here yesterday. Speaking in fluent Afrikaans during a TV programme on Israel-South African relations, he said the U.S. had never tried to influence Israel to lower the profile of its relations with Pretoria. He believed there was scope to increase co-operation to the advantage of both countries, he said.

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Boosting industrial research

By ANYEH GREENFIELD
Special to The Jerusalem Post
 The volume of civilian industrial research and development will double by the early 1980s, says the new Chief Scientist in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Prof. Aryeh Levie. At present it accounts for half a per cent of the gross national product; within three to five years it should equal about one per cent. Overall research activity, including not only industrial R & D, but also basic study in the various sciences and the extensive military effort in this field, probably will remain unchanged at approximately two per cent of the national product. This is a highly respectable level for such activity, Prof. Levie says. However, Israel was long known for its disproportionately large concentration on basic research. Structural change within the scientific community has altered that, and further movement towards applied study and product development is confidently expected during the next few years. Even though critics still score Israel's industrial R & D establishment as too small - national expenditure on this subject reaches one per cent of the GNP, and more, in most industrial countries - much has already been achieved. A study prepared by the Chief Scientist's office shows that about \$250m. worth of original Israel products was exported in 1975. Data for 1976 are not yet complete, but suggest that such foreign sales

brought in well over \$300m. that year. About a quarter of each year's total came from exports of locally designed electronic instruments, another 25 per cent from the sale of various metal products, including machines and irrigation equipment. The chemicals industry accounted for half of the total. The growth rate of such exports is gratifyingly rapid: they tend to triple every five or six years. By the end of the Chief Scientist's current five-year projection, foreign sales of original Israel developments in 1982/83 is expected to bring in on the order of \$1.4b.: \$500m. from the chemicals industry, \$250m. from the sale of various mechanical

developments and metal products, \$450m. from exports of electrical and electronic equipment, and more than \$150m. from "alternate energy" systems. By the middle of the 1980s, original Israel products will account for about 40 per cent of all industrial exports. The Chief Scientist's expenditure on R & D grants serves as an indicator of the growing activity in this sphere. In 1976/77, actual payments amounted to about IL1.16m. During the current year, something just under IL2.50m. has been budgeted and the draft budget for 1978/79 may well exceed that by more than 50 per cent.

Industrial exports shake off stagnation

By SHELOMO MAOZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter
 Israel's industrial exports, excluding diamonds, have risen remarkably in the last two months after a long period of stagnation. According to seasonally adjusted data, the level of industrial exports in January-August was 18.7 per cent higher than the average for 1976. In August the level of these exports was \$100m., 56 per cent above that of the same month last year. It appears that the stagnation of exports since September 1976 has given way to a new surge since July, when exports rose to a level of \$150m-120m. since the beginning of the year. Treasury sources say that the virtual stagnation of exports from September 1976 to June 1977 was natural after the rapid rise in 1976, when industrial exports increased by 18 per cent and total exports rose 25.5 per cent. They now hope that the forecasts for the expansion of exports in 1977 will reach the 20 per cent mark. Until now, the rise of industrial exports, excluding diamonds, in 56 per cent by comparison with January-August 1976. In absolute figures, industrial exports in the first eight months of the year have been \$957m., and total exports in this period were \$1,890m. - a 30 per cent increase over the same period last year. Diamond exports have already reached \$27m., 48 per cent more than in the first eight months of 1976. Treasury officials attribute the increase to the higher profitability of exports and to a greater availability of workers for export industries. Taking into account the very rapid rise in diamond exports, they hope that the forecast will even be exceeded.

Bank of Israel data, however, show that unemployment has declined since the beginning of 1977 and that requests for workers which could not be filled by the labour exchange remained nearly unchanged until July, when they went up sharply from approximately 5,500 unfilled jobs per month to over 7,000.

Poultry industry must turn to exports to survive

By YITZHAK OKED
Jerusalem Post Reporter
KIRYAT MALACHI. — During the past five years over a half billion pounds has been invested in poultry slaughter and processing plants in various parts of the country. Today they produce more than the local market can absorb, and they must therefore increase their exports. This was stated yesterday by the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Yigal Hurvitz, at the opening of the ultra-modern Hod Avaz slaughtering and processing plant here. Speaking in a sombre mood, Hurvitz apologized that if what he was saying was spoiling the holiday atmosphere of the ceremony. He pointed out that there was talk about cancelling subsidies on poultry, and that such a decision could mean the closing of several processing plants. Questioned by The Post about a study which emphasised that poultry exports were not profitable, the minister replied that he had heard about this report, but that he was optimistic a solution could be found. The first step towards increasing exports of processed meat, Mr. Hurvitz said, was for all the plants in the country to band together. At present "cut-throat" competition between plants had resulted in prices being lowered to a minimum. Sometimes these prices were even below the "gate" prices which the European countries have imposed to protect their own industry. Some Israeli exporters have been caught selling at below "gate" prices and a collective levy has been imposed on some of the processed meats. Hurvitz promised that if all the plants coordinated their export policies, he would ask the European governments concerned to cancel these levies. Hod Avaz is a turkey and goose slaughtering house, owned by a group of 74 meshavim. It was built on a 23.5 dunam plot and the building itself has a 4,700 square metre area. A total of IL37m. was invested in the plant. The plant has been checked and works according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture standards.

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Mercy vs Justice

WHEN THE NEWS came out on Wednesday morning that Yehoshua Bension, the country's biggest convicted embezzler ever, had received a presidential pardon on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, the general reaction was surprise bordering on shock. For this very reason, it appeared advisable to withhold comment until Mr. Begin had occasion to render a full and official explanation.

That he has now done. It is a highly combative document, but it will do little to silence criticism. Indeed it is very likely to pour only more oil on the fires of suspicion.

His decision to recommend a pardon for Mr. Bension, who has so far served only two of his twelve years in jail, was based on strictly humanitarian grounds, the Prime Minister insists. It is not true, as has been claimed, that Mr. Bension was a major financial supporter of Herut. As a matter of fact, he rejected Mr. Begin's own overture to contribute to Herut's Knesset campaigns in both 1969 and 1973.

What is true is that Mr. Begin was advised by Prof. Ezra Zohar, of Tel Hashomer Hospital, that Mr. Bension was a very sick man, whose life expectancy was very short at best, but would be improved by having him transferred from prison to his home. The diagnosis was confirmed by Prof. Moshe Rachmilevich.

That was his only reason in making his recommendation, and he would have acted similarly in the case of any other prisoner in Mr. Bension's condition.

Perhaps so; but not, alas, on the evidence of Mr. Begin's own argument. For this is an argument more notable for what it omits than for what it contains.

Mr. Bension may indeed have failed to make any contribution to Herut elections campaigns. On radio yesterday, immediately after his release, he also denied having ever given a penny to Keren Tel Hai. He did not, however, deny having made sizeable donations to the Land of Israel Movement, whose cause he heartily embraced.

One of the leaders of this movement happens to be Prof. Zohar, who also made a name for himself as one of Arik Sharon's lieutenants during the last campaign. The professor's medical credentials are not in question. But his political involvement should have disqualified him as a judge in this particular case. As for Prof. Rachmilevich, he is not only a leading medical authority but also, as Mr. Begin neglects to mention, Mr. Bension's personal physician.

Granted, the man is ill, and justice should be tempered with mercy. But even so it is not clear from Mr. Begin's statement why moving him from prison hospital to his home would allow Mr. Bension a new lease of life, and why the Prime Minister, even in his present capacity as Acting Justice Minister, should, acting against all previous advice, have recommended a pardon.

After all, the issue is hardly a new one. Only last December the High Court sustained a decision by a prison Parole Board turning down Mr. Bension's petition for release on the grounds of permanent ill-health.

The Court agreed with the Board that considerations of public policy had to be taken into account along with a prisoner's state of health in any determination of parole. The Board had reasoned that Mr. Bension's early release could outrage the public's sense of justice, and reduce the deterrent effect of punishment on potential offenders.

But the Court also found no fault with the Board's action on substantive grounds. For, it said, although it is true that the petitioner (Mr. Bension) is a very sick man, there is no immediate danger to his life, and he is receiving all necessary care from the prison hospital service. Although it is obvious, the Court added, that the state of the prisoner cannot be equated with that of a free person, this is only the natural consequence of his having been convicted of offences the enormity and scope of which are without precedent in Israel's banking history.

Overruling the High Court, in effect, the Prime Minister also chose to ignore the benchmark logic of its ruling. And he appears to have forgotten, momentarily at least, that it was on a wave of national revulsion with Labour's forgiving attitude towards tampering with public funds that his own regime was swept into power.

A great many of his own followers will not easily pardon Mr. Begin his decision.

"I ADMIT it all sounds like a dream. But everything we have ever done started out as a dream."

Thus, Arik Sharon, the pragmatic general, the Yom Kippur War's "Arik King of Israel," today's Minister of Agriculture and more important, head of the joint Government-Jewish Agency Committee on Settlement.

I had come to interview Arik on settlement plans, intending to begin with the de rigueur question about his impending confrontation with Gush Emunim. He insisted however, on shifting the burden of the interview to his vision of Israel at 'century's end and its implication for today's settlement policy.

IF ONE PROJECTS one's thoughts 20-30 years ahead, Arik says, the seemingly insuperable obstacles to further settlement in the territories assume their true proportions as passing problems.

The main thing is to keep one's eye on an Israel with a Jewish population of 8-8 million, at least two million of whom will reside in an inland strip parallel to the present coastal strip, and extending from the Golan, through the Jordan Rift Valley, the Arava and down to Sharm el-Sheikh.

Once you look at it that way, everything else falls into place, he argues.

But what do we do with American opposition to settlement in Judea and Samaria?

"It will change. Look, I welcomed the election of Jimmy Carter as president, and I still do; I greatly resented pressures to which we were subjected by the Ford Administration. But at worst it (the Carter Administration) is a passing phase compared with our long-range goals: it will be there for a maximum of eight years."

Arik affects the same attitude towards the impact of the Geneva Conference, or last week's Arab Foreign Ministers conference, on the fate of his settlement plans.

Beneath this philosophical exterior, however, one senses that he's boiling.

"Several days ago someone from the British Embassy contacted me with an urgent query from London as to whether it was true that Israel had established a new settlement near Jenin."

"I told him, 'I didn't know that you still maintain a Colonial Office.'"

"It's really none of their business. Just like what they choose to do in Scotland is none of ours."

TURNING to politics, he charges it was the previous Labour Government that created a situation in which Israel became almost totally dependent on foreign approval or disapproval of its actions in its own domestic affairs.

Obviously addressing himself to the foreign critics of the Begin Government's settlement policy — whose architect he is, and whose presumed builder he will be — Arik notes:

"These plans are not prejudicial to the prospects of peace. To the contrary. The creation of bands of settlements through Judea and Samaria will give us a sense of security for the first time, which in turn will permit us to entertain more daring solutions to the question of the Arab population than we can permit ourselves today."

It is specifically such a settlement plan which will enable Israel to leave

A VISION OF ISRAEL AT CENTURY'S END

"This Government will establish many new settlements. That's what it was elected to do and that's what it will do," says Agriculture Minister

ARIEL SHARON as he unfolds his plans for a future Israel in a conversation with YOSEF GOELL.

her options open in this regard, he argues. He insists that the Begin Government has no intention of expropriating privately owned Arab lands for the settlement projects, nor of pushing Israeli settlement into the areas of high Arab population density on the spine of the Samaria mountains between Jenin, Nablus and Ramallah.

The Labour Government's Allon Plan concept, he points out, did not provide solutions for Israel's security needs, and would therefore in the long run have closed off such options.

WHAT ARE the plans of which he speaks?

The basis for all the plans is the concept of leap-frogging from the coastal strip, which was the main site of Jewish settlement in the first century of Zionist settlement, to the parallel inland strip.

"It all depends on what sort of Israel one envisions, an over-crowded narrow strip, or an ecologically sick strip of concrete along the coast, or an ecologically healthy country with a sound distribution of its millions of inhabitants over a much larger area which will provide for basic security and a healthy economy and society."

Since the question was obviously rhetorical, we went on to consider the specifics of the plan calling for an eventual two million Jews living in the inland strip. The short term plans leading up to it concentrate much more on the connective tissue that makes up the area between the two strips.

For Arik there are several points of great urgency.

* *Thickening the Jerusalem corridor* so that it never again presents the lure to attack that it did in its narrower pre-1967 state. This means pushing an alternative road through from Beit Horon, slightly north of Latrun, to the Atarot industrial park between Jerusalem and Ramallah and then through the new industrial park and town being built at Maale Adumim, 15 kms. east of Jerusalem on the Jericho road. Settlements, especially of an urban, industrial and residential character are to be built along this road.

* *Connecting the coastal belt* to the inland strip by means of a broad highway originating at about Petah Tikva, and going through the newly established settlement of Pe'erim (Mea'ha) though the biblical Shilo, which will be resettled, to the new regional centre of Maale Ephraim in the Jordan Valley foothills and down to the Valley road.

The foothill areas to the south of Hebron. There, Arik says, Arabs from the Hebron area have taken over tens of thousands of dunams of



state-owned land on both sides of the former green line, ploughing, sowing and even building homes. The only way to stop this poaching, he declares, is by establishing a string of Israeli settlements, of which Yotvata will be the first.

In an aside, Arik notes that over 10,000 Arabs are still encroaching on state-owned lands between Ashkelon and Hadera on 800 sites. "Something will have to be done about that," he mutters, and adds that the situation in Galilee, with Arabs taking over state-owned lands, is not much better. "One of the absurdities of our situation," he says, "is that over the past 10 years less than 10,000 Jews have been settled across the green line and the world is in a tizzy; but in the same period, over 30,000 Arabs from the territories have come to reside in Israel, including Jerusalem, and no one says a thing."

* *The western slopes of Samaria.* Arik notes that as a result of the 1949 Armistice Agreements, Israel's narrow waist has been bounded on the east by a string of Arab villages from Umm el Fahm to Kafr Kassem, whose inhabitants today number close to 100,000. Immediately on the other side of the former green line is another band of dense Arab settlements in towns such as Tulksam and Elkhbiya and the villages in between, which also number close to 100,000 inhabitants.

The danger, he says, is that this solid Arab block will grow to join the other area of dense Arab settlement on the mountain tops. This must be prevented by the insertion of a wedge of Israeli settlements in the sparsely populated western slopes.

The foothill areas to the south of Hebron. There, Arik says, Arabs from the Hebron area have taken over tens of thousands of dunams of

meriting greatest urgency, but the continuing settlement of the Golan, the Jordan Rift, Galilee, the Rafiah Gap and its connection with Eilat will not be neglected, while the more urgent projects are being attended to.

Where are all the settlers to come from? Gush Emunim will provide some, the other settlement movements others, and "there is also a most gratifying rush of hundreds of young families who have already signed up with us for settlement projects."

Sharon is especially encouraged by this latter phenomenon of youngsters from well-to-do homes, with good jobs and incomes deciding to accept the challenge of striking out in new directions. It is a good sign for the future realization of his vision, he feels.

But his eyes are set primarily on a resumption of large scale aliyah of young Jews seeking new challenges.

"Jews," he says, "will never come here for the purpose of living a materially more comfortable life than they can have in the goyim. They will come if we offer them a challenge and a flag to follow."

He feels that the idea of large scale settlement which will be pluralistic enough to provide different forms and different challenges to different groups, is the answer.

FINALLY, getting to the Gush Emunim question which is on the tip of my tongue, Arik denies press reports that he has warned the Gush not to dare settle on their own without Government approval.

"There is no confrontation between us and there will be none. The Gush understands that settlement is to be only on the basis of Government approval. The operative question is that of timing, and that will be decided by the Government."

Other settlement movements will be encouraged to settle in accordance with their own ideological limitations, he says. If one movement refuses to settle in Samaria, but agrees to settle in the Golan, Galilee or Rafiah, they will be welcome.

He feels that a significant number of American Jews and American Jewish communities will respond to the challenge of setting up independent settlements of their own. If, for example, American Jews want the chance of establishing a town of their own in Galilee according to their own ideas and their own standards, the new government will give them that chance, he says.

"The main thing is to get around the monster bureaucracy that has grown up around the whole settlement set-up and free it from its shackles. That, and making sure that national resources are diverted from the coastal belt to the new projects inland. Admittedly it's a dif-

icult thing to do politically will be done because it

WHAT DO Finance Minis Eshkol and the other Min say to what sounds like political naïveté on the new boy?

Arik does not answer it goes over to speak of the s in which the Begin Gover ducts its business.

"These plans I've out not yet been approved by Cabinet. But there's no or at this stage, I've present Prime Minister Begin i them to the other c Ministers, and all have a

"The important thing tand about this Governme has a clear line of its own. that, and because Prim Begin is the most au Premier since Ben-Gur one of the Ministers on greater autonomy in his was the case in the Soviunists."

"There is no back backstabbing among the and we have been working harmony and coordinati capacity as Minister of A meet with the two othe Ministers, Finance Minis and Industry Minis weekly, and we get along

The autonomy Sharon has been great enough to to lord it over his Joini on Settlement, and to details of his plans from Agency members, most o Labour Party appointees could learn he has t Minister's support in th the interests of mainta imum secrecy on what th to be a very sensitive su

"The same was true of view. It was difficu whether there are full plans for the establi settlements in accorda general guidelines outline whether the whole matt one of rather empty posturing."

"MAKE NO MISTAKE Arik brought us out of or reveries. "This Governm tabish many new se. That's what it was electe that's what it will do." (T im yitze hashem — "Goc which has become a regu dage to declarative uttered by Begin Gc ministers."

"The former Governm recognize the right of all tie in all parts of Erets Y government does. We yi the situation to go on u Arabs were permitted anywhere in our land, bu not."

"I and my plan do not r extreme position. To the am ready, as I explained, different options for a so problem of this country's condition for such flexib we neutralize the dan, security. This is what the concept failed to do, an plan provides for."

"We are also basing o the belief that Jews and live together in peace. I ed this ever since I was continue to believe so t has changed is that no position to try to do sc prove it."

READERS' LETTERS

GIVE SOLDIERS A LIFT

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — On Shabbat, my son left his base in the south of the country at noon with the intention of meeting the rest of the family at 5 p.m. at Kibbutz Eilat, near the Dead Sea. In order to be present at the official proclamation of his brother's Nahal Garin, and continue home to Jerusalem with us from there for a few hours of home leave, before returning to his base early next morning. He had not been home for three weeks.

We were disappointed and puzzled when he failed to join us at Eilat. However we were angry and disillusioned when we learned the reason why. He called us at home at 10 p.m. at night, upset and weary after having waited at the Sdom

junction for seven hours without one car stopping to give him a lift.

As a result of the public's indifference to the plight of a soldier waiting for a lift on a day when there is no form of public transportation my son was forced to sleep on the beach before attempting to hitch a lift back to his base in the morning.

On behalf of all mothers of soldiers, allow me to voice this plea through your columns: don't become an "ugly Israeli." Do give lifts to soldiers at all times, but particularly on the Sabbath and holidays, so that they can spend the precious few hours of their leave with their families, instead of waiting for hours on the roads.

PAMELA LOVAL
Jerusalem.

ORTHODOXY IN JERUSALEM

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — I resent the religious discrimination I encounter in Jerusalem. This is the holiest Jewish city in the world and my observance of Orthodox Judaism is being impaired.

The few synagogues in my area are overcrowded. I cannot buy a comfortable seat to pray in for the coming Rosh Hashana.

There are only a few mikvaot in the city and I always have a two-hour wait to use the facilities. The schools my children attend are overcrowded. My son's class of fourth graders has 42 boys in it. My daughter's class was in a shelter last year and this year, there is no class room space for the 65 girls in fifth grade at the Horev School.

During the summer, my eldest daughter had to get up at 5.30 a.m. to go all the way across town to separate swimming at the Holyland

Hotel three mornings a week. Otherwise, she could have gone once a week to swim in the Jerusalem Forest, except that there were long lines to get tickets and often she could not get one.

I'm sick of hearing about Orthodoxy controlling everything and forcing secularists to observe the Torah. I find the exact opposite to be true.

ANNE WEINER
Jerusalem.

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POSTSCRIPTS

"EDIBLE FATS and Your Heart" is the name of a valuable little booklet and chart (in Hebrew and English) with lots of sound advice on just what is and isn't good to eat; and it's especially pertinent for Israelis, who consume over 400 eggs per capita per year, and who indulge in a large amount of well-lubricated salads and fried foods. The independent agency

Consumer Shield, which publishes the information, points out that it is never too early to start watching one's intake of heart-stopping oils. Their booklet, endorsed by the Association of Cardiologists in Israel, is available for IL6, from Consumer Shield, P.O.B. 26101, Tel Aviv.

J.B.

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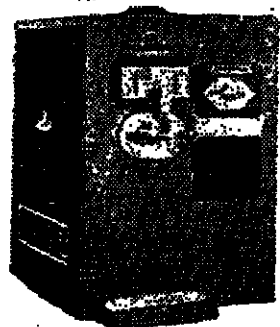
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